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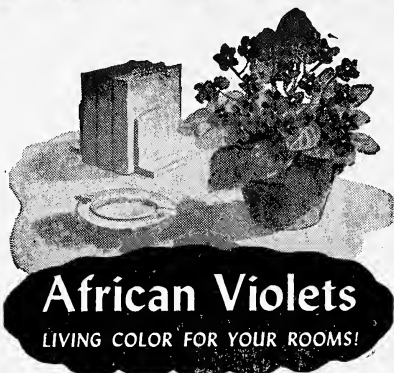
African Violet MAGAZINE

DECEMBER 1952

VOLUME 6

NUMBER 2





About Your Collection . . .

Are you an African violet enthusiast who wants to grow just the better varieties . . . not all the varieties? There are so many nowadays! With our second big African violet greenhouse just completed, we have plenty of room for testing out most of the newer ones you've been reading about. No old fashioned kinds take up space here! If you are in our neighborhood (7 Miles Northeast of Detroit) do try to include a trip to our place if you can. You'll see 60' x 90' of just violets . . . in all sizes and in about 60 choice named varieties plus some very nice unnamed seedlings and a few named seedlings not yet on the market. In our mail order business we sell just 32 varieties . . . the ones we consider "best" in color, flower, growing habit. And remember -- our packing is best ever!

FOR SUPERIOR SHOW PLANTS — CONSIDER THESE . .

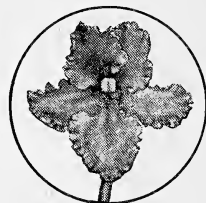


BLUE HEIRESS Spectacular 2½" brilliant blue flowers and immense foliage. Your neighbors are sure to exclaim about this profuse bloomer with pencil-thick leaf stems that grow in perfect rosette form. Very husky growth. A Dupont seedling with extra nice "girl" type foliage

\$2.50 POSTPAID

RUFFLED QUEEN Notice the rick-rack edging on every petal! You need not tax your imagination one bit. The edges of every petal are so heavily ruffled and frilled that they have an appearance of being edged with lace of a lighter shade than the rest of the richly colored blossoms. Big blue-burgundy flowers heavily frilled "on the other side" too! Superior bloomer with true Dupont foliage

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Three of the most striking violets in our greenhouses this year were: Apple Blossom planted between Purple Knight and Velvet Girl. Beautiful beyond words! You must have this threesome! All 3 plants for \$5.00 or \$2.00 each postpaid and guaranteed to please. Our shipping season closes November 29, late orders held till early Spring, or money refunded if you wish.



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Violets \$1.00 up, Postpaid to any city U. S. A. Catalog is filled with valuable information you should have if you can't grow all the violets you've read about.

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offers

Rooted Cuttings

A real opportunity to have the newest and best at reasonable prices. The varieties listed below are husky carefully grown rooted cuttings of the latest introductions. And they will be available in early spring. Delivery will be made just as soon after March 1953 as the weather will permit. Orders will be filled in the order in which they are received. All merchandise is guaranteed to be from the originator and is authentically named.

EVENING SUNSET — A beautiful light blue with an overcast of pink	\$1.25
GENEVA'S DAUGHTER — Light blue with a tinkling white edge	\$1.00
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CHEROKEE — A lovely new deep rich red on beautiful foliage	\$1.00
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PURITY — Pure white double flowers	\$.50
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HOLLY — Blue flowers, dark copperish green foliage	\$1.00

Many other standard varieties of cuttings and blooming plants available at reasonable prices, stamp for list.

When ordering, please enclose your check or money order and on orders under \$5.00 please add 60¢ for postage and packing. Orders over \$5.00 will be sent Postpaid.

Ballerina Gardens

KENNETH W. GAINES

4 GREER STREET

MOUNT VERNON, OHIO

African Violet Magazine



A Quarterly Publication

C O N T E N T S

EDITORIAL STAFF

Vol. 6 December 1952 No. 2

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My Winter Garden

The Summer's gone and I am lost
Without my garden flowers.
How, through the cold and snowy
days
Am I to spend the hours?

I could by a Christmas Cactus,
Dainty Begonias of every hue,
Geraniums with leaves white-tipped
A Kalanchoe or two.

Sansevieria and Nephytis
To give a touch of green,
A bit of Ivy, a Philodendron
Just to complete the theme.
or

I might fill my picture window
With Saintpaulias galore,
Now - there's a Winter Garden
How could I wish for-more?

Poem by Wilhetonine Kingstone
Toronto, Canada

African Violet Plant Food

IN CAPSULE FORM

Made Especially for African Violets

Safe and Easy to Use

**DOES NOT CONTAIN POISON
OR ANY HARMFUL INGREDIENTS**

Roigina African Violet Plant Food is manufactured in capsule form for greater convenience. The ORGANIC contents are an essential food for African Violets. Part of the food is available at once. The balance is available as the plant uses it. This promotes growth, blossoms and intensifies color when used as directed.

54 capsules \$1.00 prepaid

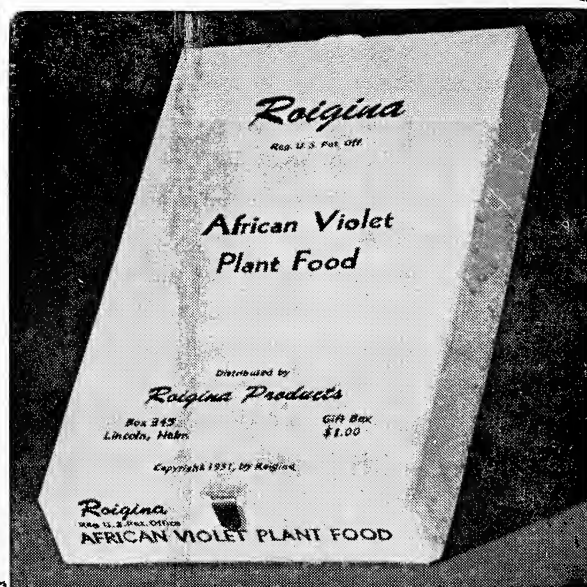
Free folder on care and culture of African Violets included

Available at Your Dealer or Write to

ROIGINA PRODUCTS

Box 345

Lincoln, Nebr.



SAVING OVERGROWN PLANTS

Helen Potruff, Mich.

No doubt many of you have plants that have out grown themselves -- and yet you hate to part with them. Of course cutting off at the soil line and re-rooting the crown has been standard practice for a long time. I have an Orchid Beauty that has bloomed constantly for 3 years. I had already re-potted it twice to cover up the long stem. So I thought I'd try something else.

I took off all but two rows of leaves, and after the bleeding stopped, (two days) and the stem was completely healed, I took it out of the pot and gently pulled off half the roots. Then I re-potted it in the same pot. Much to my surprise and delight the plant kept right on blooming and has a ring of 7 budded stems coming along quite fast.

Cutting off and re-rooting would have set it back. Taking off the leaves made it easier for the smaller root system to support the plant.

Most of my mature plants aren't too large as I have long been of the opinion that if a plant has to support many leaves, you will have less blossoms. Often times when I have a plant that should be blooming and it doesn't show new buds forming -- I find that taking off a couple rows of leaves soon starts the buds moving. Just lately that happened to my Polka Dot. A month ago I took off three rows of leaves and re-potted the plant, now there is a circle of buds that will all bloom at once.

YOU CAN'T GET A BETTER POT FOR AFRICAN VIOLETS

"ITS NATURAL PUMICE STONE"



PLANTMASTERS have everything but the soil that is needed for growing indoor plants. The thousands of minute holes provide water **ABSORPTION** from the bottom, or **DRAINAGE** if excess water is placed in the top, **AERATION** eliminating sour soil, **INSULATION** protecting the roots from dry room air and sudden temperature changes.

PLANTMASTER will absorb water over its entire surface area. No wick necessary - No clogging.

4 x 4 x 8 inches. Available in three colors, the natural grey, Mono maroon, and Sierra green.



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RED AND GREEN**

**PLANTMASTER AND TRAY \$2.75 POSTPAID
C. O. D. IF YOU LIKE**

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Los Angeles 28, California

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Now you can buy the newest varieties of African violets at wholesale prices with no restrictions on number of plants you must order of a variety. If you desire you can order 25 different. All plants shipped in 2½" pots, packed 25 to a box. Please list several substitutes in case we are temporarily out of any variety. Shipments are made express collect. The largest plants available are always sent and the single crown plants are in bud and bloom, ready for immediate sale. The multiple crown plants are ready to divide and grow on.

SHIPPING ALL WINTER IN SPECIAL
DOUBLE INSULATED CARTONS

* NEWEST VARIETIES * SINGLE CROWN PLANTS ONLY

\$1.25 each

\$1.00 each

Albino
Apple Blossom
Blue Sheen
Dbl. Fringed White
Evening Sunset
Lavender Eclipse
Pink Cheer
Pink Fantasy
Purple Lace
Suprita
Velvet Girl

Autumn
Carmen
Crazy Quilt
Dbl. Neptune Sup.
Geneva Daughter
Lav. Eyed Beauty
Mulberry Girl
Pansy Beauty
Red Princess
Ruffled Queen
Star Girl

* NEWEST VARIETIES *

SINGLE CROWN — 75¢ MULT. CROWN — \$1.50

Baby Pink
Bridesmaid
Brussels Sprouts
Dbl. Sunset Girl
Dbl. Gorg. Bl. Wonder
Dbl. Sailor Girl
Fringed Dbl. Orchid
Violet Beauty Sup.

DuPont Delight
Fire Chief
Magnifico
Orchid Spoon
Red Lady
Red Velvet Girl
Star Sapphire
Sunset Girl

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75¢ — MULTIPLE — \$1.00

Blue Girl Supreme
Dbl. Orchid Bicolor
Dbl. Rose and White
Gorgeous Supreme
Navy Bouquet
Neptune Supreme
Ruffled Beauty
Saintpaulia Grotei
S. Magungensis
S. Tongwensis

Black Beauty
Dbl. Lady
Geneva Star
Innocence
Lacy Girl
Orchid Velvet
Pink Delight
Queen Betty
Red Chief
Royal Girl

Utery Orchid Hybrid

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SINGLE CROWN PLANTS — 50¢ MULTIPLE — 75¢

Azure Beauty
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Bronze Girl Hybrid
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DuPont Blue
DuPont Lav. Pink
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Double Neptune
Dbl. Orchid Girl
Dbl. Orchid Hybrid
Dbl. Orchid Neptune
Double Rose
Dbl. Sea Girl
Geneva Rainbow
Gorgeous Bicolor
Gorg. Blue Wonder
Hybrid Seedlings
(all colors)
Periwinkle
Red Girl Hybrid
Sailor's Delight
Sailor Girl
Violet Beauty
White Boy Hybrid

Blue Bird
Blue Delight
Blue Heiress
Dark Beauty
Delight
Fantasy
Gorgeous
Gypsy Pink
Lady Grace
Lady Utery
Lucky Lady
Opal Girl
Pink Girl
Orchid Sunset
Painted Girl
Pink Sheen
Purity
Purity No. 2
Red King
Red Velvet
Snow Girl
Snow Prince
Violet Glow

RETAIL PRICES OF THESE PLANTS

If you wish to buy 5 or more plants from this list, just double the wholesale price and deduct 20%. These are also shipped by express in double insulated cartons. An order for leaves can be included. See Sept. A. V. Magazine page 10 for price list.

HENRY TEN HAGEN

DEPT. WC

WARSAW, N. Y.



FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Friends:

With the permission of the Awards Committee I am offering a \$25.00 Cash Award for the best plant of Alma Wright exhibited in the white doubles class at the Convention Show. This Award will be listed as the Alma Wright Cash Award. I'm looking forward to seeing some pretty plants in Nashville.

Mary joins me right heartily in this sincere Holiday wish —

MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY

NEW YEAR

to you all

MARY PARKER and ALMA WRIGHT

To the members of the Magazine Staff who have so faithfully performed their many tasks most cheerfully and promptly this past year -- a million and one thank yous! You were wonderful and your help is deeply appreciated! Without you there would be no Magazine!

Again, Best Wishes and the Hope that 1953 will bring you all you want —

Most sincerely,

Alma Wright

COMMUNICATIONS:

BACK ISSUES, CURRENT MAGAZINES, MAGAZINE BINDERS, CLUB PROGRAMS, write Alma Wright, P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, Tenn.

AFFILIATED CHAPTER INFORMATION, write Ada Magill, 707 S. 4th Street, Aurora, Ill.

DUES: \$3.00 FOR 12 MONTHS.

RENEWALS AND NEW MEMBERSHIPS, should be sent to the treasurer, Boyce M. Edens, 2694 Lenox Road, N. E. Atlanta 5, Ga.

Please do not send renewals and new memberships to the editor.

Advertising rates on request.

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Change of address: Send your new address at least 30 days before the date of the issue with which it is to take effect. Send old address with the new, enclosing if possible your address label.

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At the End of the Year

As we approach one of the most beautiful -- and certainly the most colorful -- seasons of the year, I want to personally thank each and every one for the wonderful assistance which you have given during this past year. Your cooperative effort has certainly helped to boost our Society -- and we still need this same tireless work on the part of all. It is through this great endeavor that our Society ranks in first place in growth in the vast horticultural world. We still need your best efforts -- and I know that we will get them!

The Members' Handbook will be mailed out the latter part of February -- or first part of March. We are holding this until after the first of the year so that our list will be as complete and accurate as we can make it. Also, to list the new officers for the coming year. Another thought has occurred: Why not give a friend of yours a membership for Christmas? We would be able to put his or her name in the Handbook.

Along that same vein -- I am sure that your friends would greatly appreciate a Handbook. By ordering the two (they are only mailed out this way) you can also get that binder which you have wanted so long! You will find the ad elsewhere in this magazine.

Effective January 1, 1953 only Affiliated Chapters will be able to retain the 50¢ of each membership. Please see that your affiliation does not lapse -- and that you have completed the requirements after the election of your new officers. This is important!

If you do not get your magazine in the usual time -- please notify the Editor. Do not wait more than thirty to sixty days. Some are doing this from one to two years after the issue has been out! It may be necessary to check back through the postal authorities on some requests. We want each issue to get into your hands and will do utmost to see that they do.

Plans are taking great strides for the coming Nashville Convention. Much work has been done and, of course, much remains to be done.

It will be necessary to have your money accompany your registration -- which must be forwarded promptly. Complete information will be found in your March issue. This will not be a convention for late comers! As you have heard before -- "Register early."

The committee will be very grateful for your suggestions.

Some of our faithful helpers are leaving us at the end of this calendar year. I want to personally thank you for your tremendous help during this past year. I know that you will continue to work with us.

Welcome to our new Officers and to the retaining ones too! I am sure that you will do everything in your power to advance the cause of the African violet.

Wishing each and every one the Compliments of the Season, I remain

Sincerely,

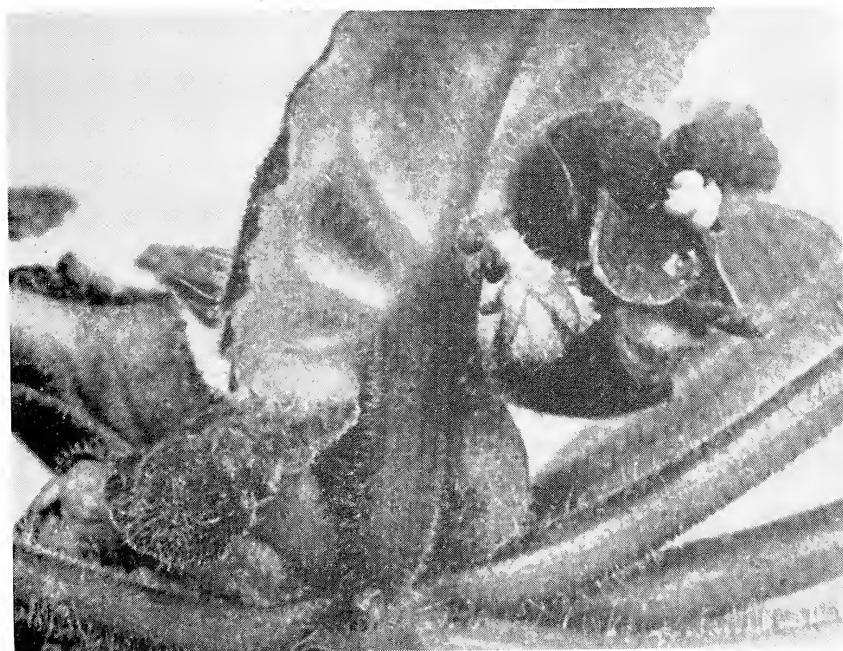
Floyd L. Johnson



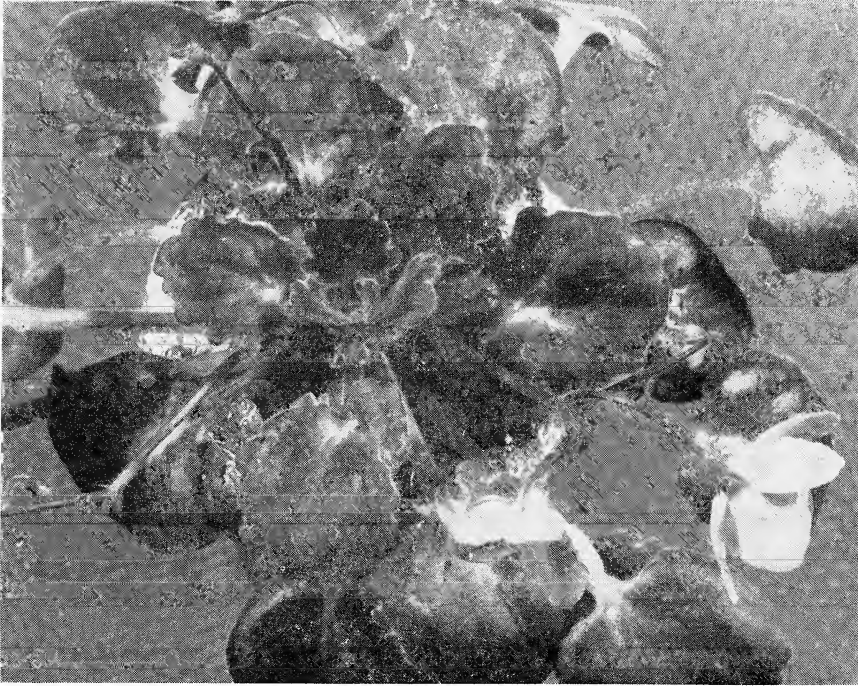
1. First indication of mite infested plants is seen by a lightening in color of the center foliage of the crown. These young and tender leaves turn to a sickly yellowish green.

By popular demand a revision of Harriet Lawton's story from Volume 4, No. 1 is reprinted — Editor.

CYCLAMEN MITE?



2. Buds, blossoms, and blossom stems become distorted. (Note bud stem all out of proportion at its base). Some buds have little or no stem as that in lower part of picture. Normal growth ceases.



Pink Girl. This plant had evidences of mite only to a trained eye. It had every appearance of coming into full bloom. Blossoms and buds were plucked out and distorted leaves. It had one dusting and two sprayings. It is responding well.

"AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION IS WORTH A POUND OF CURE." It is less trouble to prevent mite than it is to cure it when it once gets started. This last however, is by no means hopeless but it does mean faithful and constant work.

Harriet F. Lawton, Mass.

1st: Prevent trouble by adopting a regular spray program.

2nd: Learn to detect the very first symptoms of mite on plants infested by them.

3rd: Then, spray and spray and spray!

The mite is too small to see with the naked eye and hard to locate with the microscope be-

cause of the twisted foliage in which it lodges. I can do no better than to quote from letters sent me by Dr. Smith, Sr., Entomologist at our Government Station at Beltsville, Md. Suspecting trouble and having been misadvised on the diagnosis of these plants, photos were taken and enlargements sent to Dr. Smith. Not knowing the trouble, my entire stock of over 200 plants, (on three different floors) became infected. Many looked beyond repair. Some of Dr. Smith's replies to my inquiries follow.

"The photographs and your letter describe very well the various stages of Cyclamen mite on vigorous Saintpaulias. After the mites have destroyed the tender young tissue on the central

young leaves, they either die or disperse because they are unable to subsist on the older leaves."

"Large vigorous plants can survive an attack by mites, however, younger plants with less reserves in the outer leaves may die when the central leaves are similarly attacked."

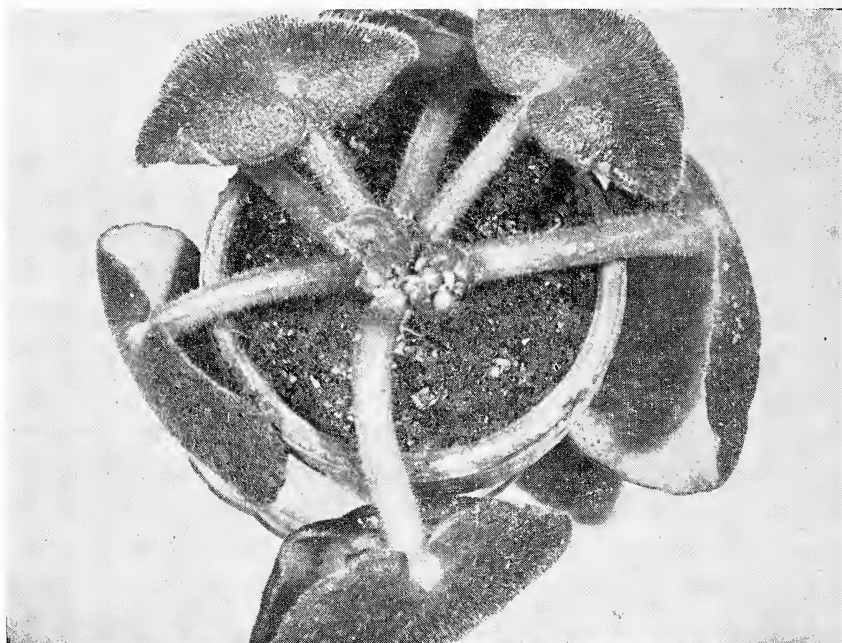
"The Cyclamen mite requires rather humid conditions. These conditions are met in the folds of the hairy young leaves even though the plants are grown on the dry side. By withholding water you would reduce the growth rate of your plants but the mites would most likely persist. Buds and flowers harbor the mite as well as the young leaves. If your plants are separated a few inches in your constant water-level pan, the mites are

not likely to spread by their own action. The mites do not survive for more than a day if not in contact with living plant tissue. It would not seem necessary to disinfect the window ledges and surrounding areas in attempts to eradicate mites."

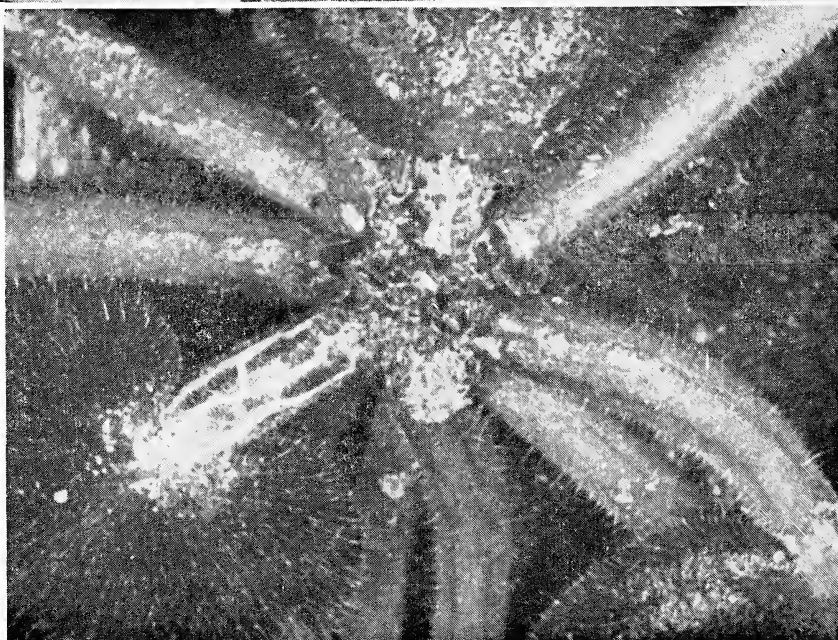
"If your plants tolerate the dip in the rotenone preparation you mentioned, the immersion of the plant and flower pot would be more thorough than a spray application. Very few sprays are not injurious to plant tissue."

"Mites are not known to attack the root system of African violets or other plants. Plants injured by mites are generally weakened. The young leaves in the crown become functional upon enlargement and replace declining older leaves. If

3. Large leaves on some plants curl and twist and become brittle as are the center leaves on this plant.



4. Center leaves eventually die and some stems are affected as shown above. These withered leaves should be carefully picked out with tweezers to make room for new growth, and stems affected as shown should be cut away.



these young leaves are lost through mite attack, there is a corresponding decline in the formation of elaborated food for the whole plant. This, of course would affect the roots."

Upon Dr. Smith's diagnosis of "mite", I sought Alma Wright's advice for treatment of plants and used the "dip in" method Dr. Smith mentions, but experience taught me that more than one dipping was too drastic for my plants. I found it necessary to adopt a "middle of the road" course.

There are several good sprays on the market. I used the rotenone spray N. N. O. R. (Many swear by Optox and others.) The spray should be used in the strength as recommended on the bottle. Mix sufficient amount in a pail, (use tepid water) and submerge pot and plant until foliage

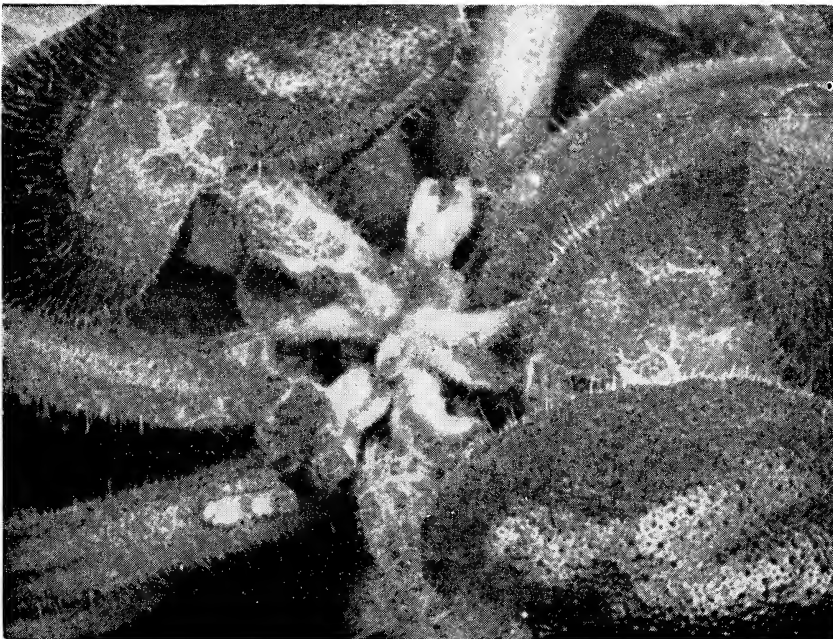
is covered. Let stand until bubbles cease to come to surface. Continue through entire stock. If water becomes objectionably dirty or if solution gets so cool it will spot foliage, mix a fresh solution. Let plants dry in shade. Follow this by two sprayings at weekly intervals. Spray with some force to reach into folds of young leaves.

This spray discolors the blossoms but not the buds. When used as a preventive, spray right down into heart of plant to avoid discoloring blooms on longer stems. In spraying, use fairly hot water as spray cools considerably in passing through air and before contact with plant. Spraying may be done in the bath tub if done in the

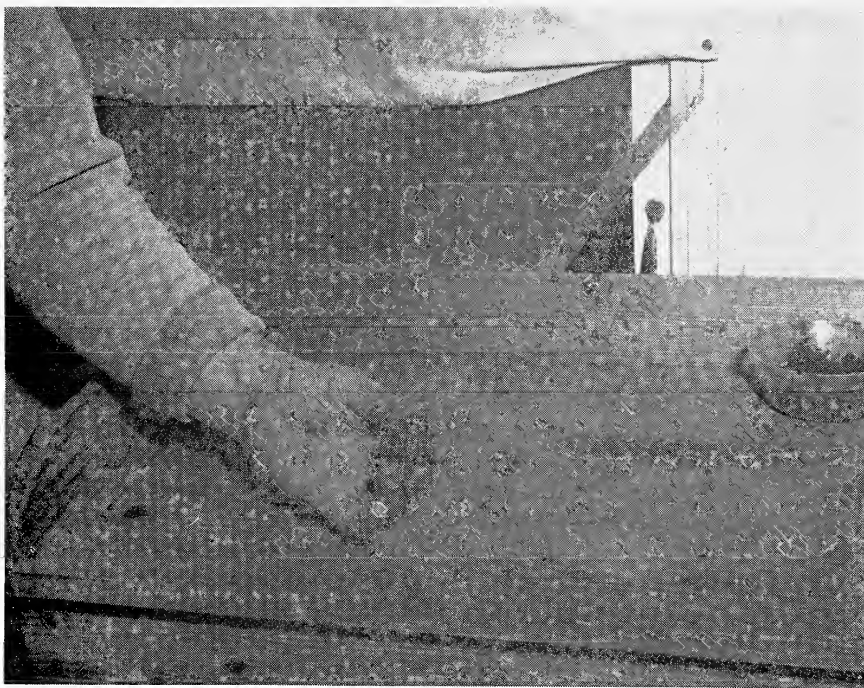
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5. Multiple suckers often replace the dead crown. Train plant to single crown by cutting away all but one sucker. Select one of the healthiest and one nearest the center of the old crown.



6. New growth replaces the old. Carefully cut out the distorted older leaves and affected stems.



Friability Test

TESTING --

African Violet Soils

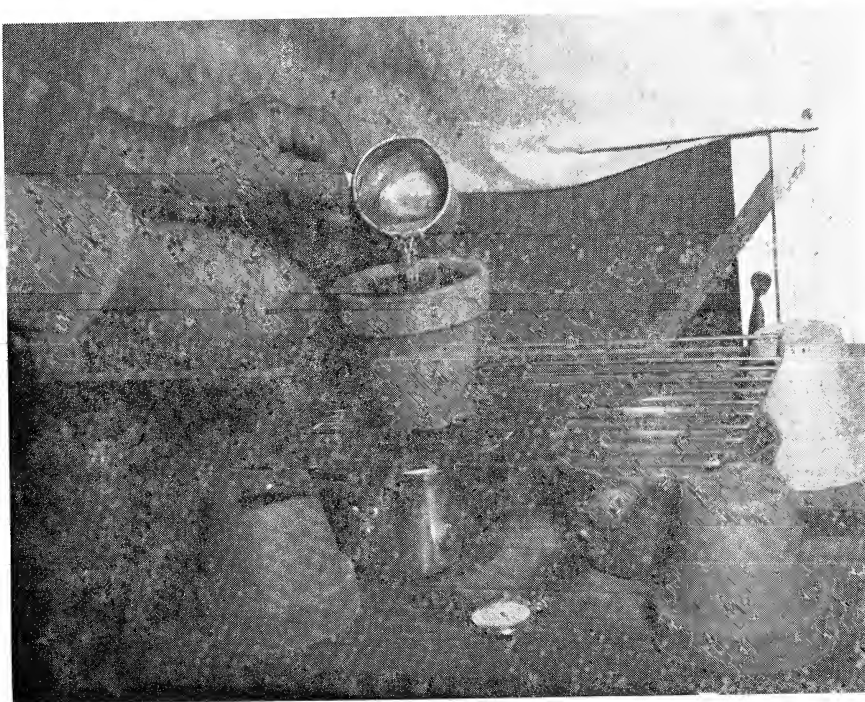
The fundamental requirements of an African violet soil are well known. It must be a humusy soil, friable, porous, moisture retentive, and with a chemical reaction (pH) fairly close to neutral (pH 7). No one will quarrel with these generalities. However, when you try to define these characteristics in a quantitative way -- put teeth into the requirements as it were -- you immediately run into difficulties. In an attempt to get some sort of quantitative idea of what we are talking about when we list the desired qualities of a satisfactory soil for African violets, ten samples of soil were obtained from experienced violet growers in the Atlanta area. Violets have been grown in all these soils for a sufficient length of time to prove that they are all satisfactory. The attempt was made to devise rough home made tests which would be some sort of a comparative indication of the characteristics listed, and the ten soils

H. G. Harvey, Ga.

were subjected to the same tests. These were crude, completely unscientific, and inconclusive, but they did yield some results which lead to some general ideas and which may be of value as the first step in a desired direction.

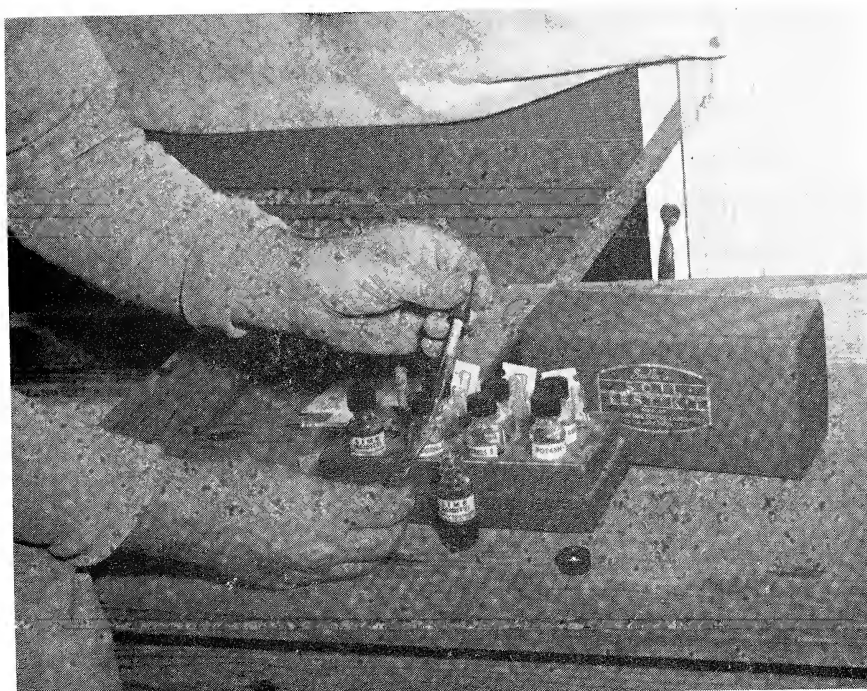
The amount of humus was determined by a study of the recipes. It appears that the soil must contain at least one third humus, either as a separate ingredient, or as part of the other ingredients. (Woods dirt is generally at least one half humus). There does not seem to be any upper limit to the proportion of humus permissible, it can be one hundred percent, provided the other desirable requirements are met. Friability is fairly easily determined. Dampen a small amount of

Cont. on Page 45



Above, Porosity and Absorption test.

Below, pH test.



FOUR "DONT'S" and ONE "DO"

IN AFRICAN VIOLET CULTURE

Irene Pendleton, Mo.

(Reprinted with permission)

Like most plants, the African violet is not immune to enemies. Some are only troublesome. Others are deadly.

Probably the most common is the mealy bug. It shows up as tiny flecks of cotton over the plant. If caught in time it may be eradicated easily. Touch each tiny speck with a bit of cotton wrapped on the end of a toothpick and saturated with alcohol. Look the plant over daily until you see no more white fluff.

Another troublesome pest is the red spider. It collects and forms a web on the under side of the leaves and sucks out the juices until the leaf is skeletonized, finally curling and falling off. Proof of the presence of spiders is to shake the plant over a piece of white paper. On this you easily see the tiny red, crawling spiders. Dusting sulphur helps to control them.

Wicked Cyclamen Mite

Cyclamen mite is one of the more serious pests. A light gray, hairy, compact center, with stems of both leaves and flowers short and twisted, are its symptoms. The mite is microscopic, but is readily transported from one plant to another by handling or by pan watering.

The entire plant will be infested even though the outer leaves appear to be in perfect condition. Sodium selenate is the best prescribed treatment, but it is a very dangerous poison and should be used with extreme caution.

The nematode is another microscopic worm. It punctures the tissues of its host and sucks the juices from the living cells in the roots and stems. Once a plant is infected there is little to do about it.

Some plants survive and thrive, while others die. It is hoped scientists will find a solution, one that will cure without killing the plant. The symptoms are enlarged, swollen knots on the roots, resembling rice kernels.

Tiny gnats and springtails are pests and nothing more. They are found in humus-laden soil and do no harm—merely annoy the grower. An aerosol insecticide bomb sprayed toward the ceiling every few days for several times will eliminate the gnats.

The springtails are very minute little fellows that hop, skip and jump around in the saucer of water. Most growers ignore them, but if you are

finicky, clorox (one teaspoon in a quart of water) will catch them.

What shall you do with the long-necked plant? If it is a rather young plant repot it, dropping it lower in the pot and covering the stem with soil. Or you may cut the top off and reroot it in water. Then repot it. Lastly, if it is an old, old plant that has draped itself all over the pot—well, the ash-can is the best place for it.

Why Blossoms Fall

Why do blossoms fall off some plants so soon? Your guess is as good as mine, but I do have a few ideas on that. Violets close to an outside door, especially a kitchen door, hold their blossoms longer because outside air and moisture enter the room often in the day.

When buds fall I consider that more serious. Too much fertilizer, too rich soil, gas escaping in the house, room temperature too high or too low, could cause the trouble, but low humidity in the room is the usual cause.

Never allow suckers to develop. They are the little leaves that grow out from a leaf juncture of the plant. As soon as you can be sure they are suckers, and not buds, push them off with a sharp-pointed pencil.

Turn Plants

Turn plants frequently. Keep all faded blossoms, seedpods and stems pinched off.

An inch band of foil paper around the rim of the flower pot for the leaves to rest on tends to keep moisture from penetrating the leaf, thus preserving it a while longer.

The use of paraffin is poor practice as it molds eventually and the plant is worse off than before. Besides, it is a nuisance when it comes to sterilizing those same pots for future use.

There are a few simple rules toward producing good, healthy plants. In a nutshell they are:

1. Do not overpot.
2. Do not overwater.
3. Do not overfertilize.
4. Do not place plants in a hot sun.
5. Do give them strong light, even if you must move the plants from window to window, seeking out the best light possible for that prized possession—the African violet.



Mrs. Broome

GROWING FOR PLEASURE AND SUCCESS

George Hull, Tenn.

Reprinted by courtesy of The Chattanooga Times

Of the thousands in Chattanooga who grow African violets, many have indifferent results, a few grow outstanding specimens, and the largest number are probably at least moderately successful. Whether you are a duffer or an expert, I believe you'd enjoy a visit to the home of Mrs. F. L. Broome, 1234 Highland Drive, North Chattanooga. That's where I'd like to take you, column-wise, today.

At the annual show of the African Violet Society of Chattanooga last fall Mrs. Broome won sweepstakes in horticulture, nine blue ribbons, and her specimen of "Blue Butterfly" was crowned queen of the show.

After seeing Mrs. Broome's outstanding plants at the show and hearing several good violet growers ask each other "How does she get such wonderful plants, such good foliage color?" (with emphasis on the "does"), I said to myself, "This is a person I should interview on African violet growing."

There are a number of outstanding growers of this popular house plant in Chattanooga, and their methods are not exactly alike. Give African violets (or more accurately, Saintpaulias) their minimum requirements of light, temperature range, moisture, fertility and freedom from pests and you should have good results. At another time I plan to write on some of the reasons why African violets fail to bloom, some of the problems of watering house plants, etc. Today's report is of how one person gets amazingly fine results with one set of methods.

Step onto Mrs. Broome's front porch, though the day has the penetrating chill of winter, and you are in a land of flowers. For Mrs. Broome, like many a violet fan, found the house too small for her hobby, had the front porch serve as home for a hundred and fifty or so plants. Here a tremendous specimen of blue "Leatherneck," of multiple crown and huge sprays of flowers, seems at first to dominate the room. Shelves cross the windows, line the walls, and a several-level table on wheels provide space for a variety of plants, all except a few in the infant class, in full bloom.

Inside the house, the eyecatcher is the display of plants in the dining room, where two large windows are filled with specimens in all shades and forms, and again all in full bloom. The overflow in this room covers a three-tier "violet susan," a revolving table made especially for this plant. Further space for violets is found in kitchen and bedrooms.

This is a coal-stoker heated house, with dining room temperatures of 65 to 70 at night, about 70 in the day. The big windows, where Mrs. Broome first enjoyed success, face northwest, get lots of light but no winter sun. The enclosed porch is quite different, faces southwest, is shaded from the sun in summer by trees, but gets full sunshine in the winter. This light is dimmed somewhat for plants directly in it by pieces of clear cellophane taped inside the windows. An electric heater, thermostatically controlled, supplements heat from the house, temperature range is 65 at night, up to 80 on a sunny day. For additional humidity, an old fashioned tea kettle sits on the heater.

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Mrs. Stevens

Plant culture, particularly that of indoor plants, has long been a hobby of my husband and I. Sometime in the past we began experimenting with a plant food of our own. As this idea expanded we reached back into the chemistry of plant life. With some help by a chemist friend we have, both by extensive experimenting and careful choice of material, developed a plant food that has we feel proven outstanding.

Being an ardent African violet fan, my violets were naturally on display. My friends were so enthusiastic about their development, that they persuaded us to market our plant food.

PEP-O-PLANT contains all of those elements essential as "fertilizers" and most of those usually considered "trace" elements. All of these elements present in PEP-O-PLANT are listed as follows:

Nitrogen the protein and protoplasm builder is present in very liberal proportions to assure strong foliage growth. The nitrogen is introduced both as nitrates which are most easily assimilated by young plants and as ammonium compounds which are utilized by plants especially in the later stages of growth.

Phosphorus which stimulates healthy root growth and aids in seed development is present in very liberal quantities. This fact is one of those which makes our plant food especially valuable as a food for African violets, Tubers, and Bulbs.

Potassium is the third main ingredient as is proper in any good plant food. This element is vital for the photosynthesis of starch (and ultimately sugars). Plants whose diet is lacking in

PLANT CULTURE

Elizabeth C. Stevens, Minn.

potassium are most susceptible to disease such as plant cancer (*Bacterium tumefaciens*) than well nourished ones.

Calcium is present in rather small quantity in the form of a soluble oxide. This element appears to stimulate root growth and add strength to plant cells. Certain plants cannot tolerate large quantities of calcium although a deficiency usually causes stunted growth.

Magnesium is also present in fairly liberal quantity in the form of sulphates. It is thought that this element aids in the transportation of phosphorus in the plant. It definitely aids in the formation of chlorophyll.

Sulphur is present in three sulphates. The success of many fertilizers is thought to be due largely to its presence. It is associated with the promotion of the growth of bacteria associated with successful plant life.

Silicon is present in the hydroxide form. This element has not been definitely classified as to its role as a fertilizer although its presence has been experimentally found necessary.

The "trace" elements present in PEP-O-PLANT are copper, zinc, manganese, boron and iron. It is not necessary to discuss them individually. It will suffice to say that they have all been proven necessary to a complete plant food. In the case of boron, care has been taken to keep the quantity within the vital safe limits. The iron is present in the form of citrate. This chemical dissolves very slowly but is not in danger of being precipitated out of solution as are those salts of iron usually found in hydroponic solutions. The pH of the final product is held between 5 and 6.

Although its benefits are somewhat doubtful, we have included in the formula a liberal quantity of vitamin B¹.

We hope that, at the expense of being "long-winded," we have given you a complete picture of PEP-O-PLANT. In our opinion, our product is as complete and well balanced as it is possible to formulate. Users are proving this by the results obtained.

WANTED:

ROOM For More VIOLETS

James and Dixie Propp, Okla.

A familiar phrase to African violet collectors! And Mr. and Mrs. Lee Henderson of Muskogee, Oklahoma are no exception. Violets have literally taken over their home. In every room, none excluded, you'll find violets in one stage or another of growth. The Hendersons don't mind the close quarters, but the rapidly expanding family of African violets needs more room.

This situation has been growing on them for the past two years, but actually Mrs. Henderson had her first introduction to the African violet about twenty years ago. During eighteen of those years you could never find more than a dozen plants in the Henderson home. No one could tell them the names of the varieties they bought, nor did they know anything about their propagation.

But two years ago Mr. Henderson decided something should be done about the nameless dozen that his wife had. He drove to the Violet Treasure House in Springdale, Arkansas and returned with a dozen or more new and named varieties and information about their growing habits and propagation. Since then there has been no let up in the interest of both Mr. and Mrs. Henderson. And no let up in the ever increasing number of plants.

The Hendersons now have 162 named varieties of African violets, 215 rooted plants from leaves and almost 300 leaves in the process of rooting in sand and vermiculite mixtures. This doesn't include seedling plants from seed that Mr. Henderson pollinates and plants.

Before collecting the pollen he washes his hands and then, using embroidery scissors, he cuts the anthers of a blossom not over three days old. He lets the pollen fall on his thumb nail and then transfers it to the female stigma of a blossom not over three days old. A string is tied on this stem and record made of the cross.

When the seed are ripe they are planted in a mixture of four parts sifted vermiculite, one part leafmold and one part sand. Transplanting the seedlings to pots is still an experiment with Mr. Henderson. Some grow and some don't. For general potting of growing plants the Hendersons use two parts coarse vermiculite, one part peat moss to a gallon of potting soil. Sand is added accordingly if needed.

One of the newest features the Hendersons have added is the three tiered table with two 48 inch fluorescent lights mounted on it. Plants



The three-tiered table with fluorescent lights displays part of the Hendersons violets. Mrs. Henderson holds her blue ribbon winner, Sea Girl.

growing under the lights are sitting in galvanized iron trays and on a layer of first granite chip and then coarse vermiculite. There is another 48 inch fluorescent light over their propagating table in their pantry. And still another light to be mounted when they find the space.

Regular spraying for the control of insects is a must! N.N.O.R. is used regularly as a preventative. Until last winter the Hendersons had not had trouble and had never sprayed and they lost several of their best plants to the Cyclamen mite. Mrs. Henderson says, "If you're not spraying, start now."

One of the things which makes growing African violets so fascinating is that there is never a stopping place. As soon as the Hendersons get a new plant leaves are started from it, so that something new is coming up all the time.

The Hendersons have a solution to their need for more room for more violets, a green house. At present they are looking into all the types. They want the best one that will suit their needs. And they think that the best is none too good for African violets.

ROOT AND CROWN ROTS OF AFRICAN VIOLETS

Austin Ford, A. V. S. A. Research Scholarship

A variety of organisms, both plant and animal, are associated with the root and crown rots of African violets. Among the plants the fungi are the most numerous found on the surface of, or in, the rot. Bacteria are found less frequently. Among the animals the nematodes are most important.

The purpose of this investigation is to find among these groups the pathogen (an organism which incites disease) or pathogens involved in causing the root and crown diseases of the violet. In attacking the problem diseased plants were sought from, and generously offered by several growers. These plants were examined under the microscope, and the apparently diseased parts -- mostly roots, crowns, and petioles -- were then sectioned with a razor blade, and the sections were incubated on agar. (A jelly-like substance containing certain nutrients that stimulate the growth of fungi and bacteria). This agar favors the growth of certain organisms, especially fungi present in the rot so that they grow out on the surface. In this condition they can be freed of mixtures and isolated in pure culture. They are identified, isolations are made of them, and they are preserved for further study and for use in innoculating healthy plants in an attempt to reproduce the disease in question.

As mentioned above, fungi predominate as isolates from the rotted parts of the plant. This is not conclusive proof that among them will be found the primary agent of the disease being studied, but it is significant. Over two hundred isolations of fungi have been made, most in pure culture, that is, not contaminated with other fungi or bacteria, etc. These are refrigerated while not being used in order to reduce their respiration and so conserve them for further use.

Among the fungi isolated were several members of the genus *Fusarium*. The members or species of this genus cause wilts in many of our well known plants. The wilted effect is brought about by the fungus either blocking the passageways where water and minerals are transported, or by producing a toxin which does the harm.

A species of the genus *Phytophthora* has been found in a rotted violet which when inoculated into the roots of a healthy plant will ascend the roots, petioles, and spread throughout the leaf blade, all in a few days. Several other species of fungi have been isolated which rot the roots only and leave the petiole and leaf blade firm and green for some time after infection.

The research problem is split up into several phases. The first phase includes the isolation and

identification of all the organisms found associated with the rot of the violet. Of the animal suspects the Root-knot nematode was most consistently found on some of the groups of violets received. The Root-knot nematode (*Meloidogyne*) was found on a greater number of plants, a much greater number, than was the Meadow nematode (*Pratylenchus*). The latter was found rarely along with some other nematodes that were perhaps only scavengers.

When the root-knot nematode was found on one plant in a group, it was then found on all the other plants of that particular group. Or when a group of plants was received from a grower, if the first one studied was found to have knots, all the succeeding ones studied had them. And the subsequent groups from that grower had them also. On the other hand groups of plants received from other growers were consistently without them, that is, without the knots, or other nematodes. Yet they had some root and crown rotted plants.

Some knots were so small they couldn't readily be detected with the naked eye. A finger had to be run down the root to detect the slight unevenness due to the presence of a small knot. This when crushed and examined under the microscope yielded the eggs and adults of the nematode.

Regardless of whether or not nematodes were present on the plants, the plants were destroyed by rot. Some species of fungi do, independently, invade and destroy the African violet. The life cycles of these must be studied in order to find a weak link at which it can be destroyed. Whether other species, which alone, have no effect on the violet, can, after the nematode has wounded the outer plant tissues, invade and cause damage is yet to be determined.

The second phase of the problem required the rooting of several hundred leaf cuttings in water so that the roots could be observed throughout their growth. These cuttings were kept in water in test tubes, and each group of three inoculated with a known fungus, in an attempt to separate those organisms which could actually infect healthy plants and cause a disease, from others unable to act as primary pathogens. Later the effect of inoculating potted plants with these pathogenic fungi will be compared with the effects of nematodes, and finally the effect of both organisms together. Experiments will be set up using both fungi and nematodes to find out if one

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The Greenville Show -- African Violet Fairyland

SHOW *NEWS and VIEWS*

GREENVILLE SHOW

Proceeding on the theory that two days of violets are better than one, the Greenville, S. C. African Violet Club staged its first two day show last April. Mrs. Ed Copeland was chairman for the show and Mrs. J. W. Brabham was president of the club last year.

With the central theme "A Violet Fairyland," the feature arrangement was a large fairyland of moss and fern and pixies, the queen of fairies, and myriad violets nested in naturalistic settings. This arrangement filled the immense rock fireplace of Greenville's Sears Shelter.

Mrs. Ansel Ross of Taylors captured the sweepstakes win of a membership to the African Violet Society of America. Second and third place winners were Mrs. Homer Derrick of Greenville and Mrs. Sumpter Cassels of Easley, respectively.

The horticulture specimens were on tiers in the center of the room, with the arrangements around the sides of the shelter.

Arrangements with violets predominating included violets in copper bowls, violets in a victorine, violets in an antique dish, and other

effective containers. But it remained for the violets in unusual containers class to exhaust the imagination. Here violets were seen in a green glass gourd, a coffee mill, tiny slippers, milk glass hen, chafing dish, cocoanut shell, a covered wagon, a one-horse shay, a Chinese waiter, ox cart, antique salt dish, glass swan, merry-go-round, antique vanity box, high topped shoes and a silver spoon dish. There was also a helpful educational exhibit, by a leading violet grower here.

Especially outstanding as a whole exhibit were the violets in a natural setting with woodsy scenes using violets with moss and driftwood. A May pole arrangement included many varieties of violets, with little story book dolls dressed to represent the varieties, and there was a purple Easter bonnet with violets peeping out the crown. One special arrangement depicted the four seasons, each with an appropriate violet, a Chinese figurine and other simple appointments.

Judges for the show were Mrs. R. R. Blackburn, Mrs. B. W. Hackney and Mrs. Melvina Martin, all of High Point, N. C.; Mrs. Niles Clark of Waterloo and Mrs. W. E. Hunt and Mrs. Bob Swofford, both of Laurens.



Mrs. Elsie Day, Treasurer of the Portland Chapter, happily shows the plants that brought her the Sweepstakes ribbon in the show staged by the group in the Journal Auditorium.

Below —



Miss Arnetla Bjoreman, president of the Portland Chapter, African Violet Society of American, examines the best "collection" entered in the two day show staged in the Journal Auditorium. This outstanding collection was entered by Mrs. M. Burghard, Oregon City, Oregon.

Above —

PORTLAND SHOW

Our Portland Chapter of the African Violet Society is just three years old. We are few in number but felt it was time we proved our worth by giving a show.

Last year we gave a display at one of our regular meetings. Only a few visitors came. We were puzzled why more people didn't take to the African violet here in Portland.

But have we changed our minds now!

Over 500 guests came to see our show, Saturday night, June 28th and Sunday, June 29th, in the Oregon Journal's Auditorium. They lingered, looked, talked, took notes, some joined and all were very pleased.

When we set up the show, we all worked like mad as we had such a short time to do all the work. We had light yellow, scalloped table cloths to set off the plants in each classification.

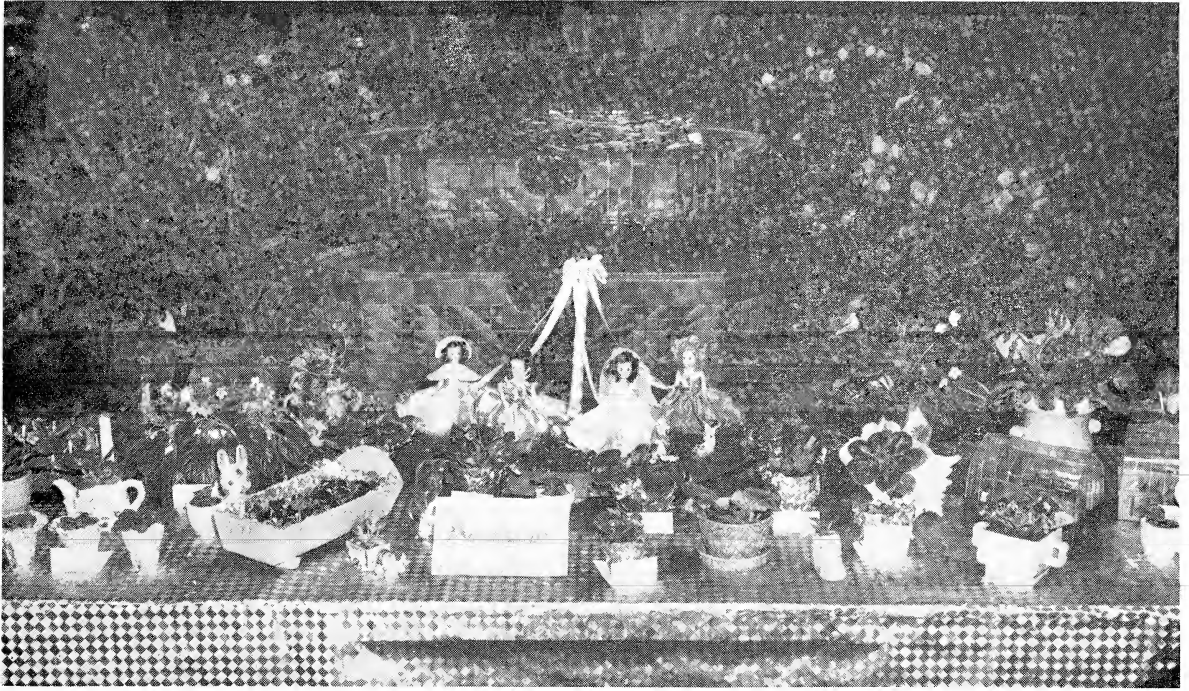
On the stage of the Auditorium, our show chairman, Mrs. Hazel Botsford, set up a large plywood bi-color African violet (with holes for

displaying plants in 4 inch pots). This was placed against a back drop of the same yellow as the cloths on the tables. We were lucky, too, for the walls of the Auditorium blended right in with our color scheme!

We had a large educational table which drew much interest from our guests. There were two commercial displays . . . that of Mrs. Sophia Baker and Mrs. Ben Gerlach . . . which drew much interest for they showed many of the newer varieties.

No one was more elated than we that our own Treasurer, Mrs. Elsie Day, took the sweepstakes with the most (five) blue ribbons. It was our own 2nd Vice-President, Mrs. Helen Raab, who grew the Bi-Color that took 2 blue ribbons for the most perfect single crown plant and the best in its class.

We were happy to have an entry of five plants all the way from Yakima, Washington. These were entered by Mrs. B. E. Gleason who went home with two ribbons. Several members of the Salem, Oregon, and the Tacoma, Washington, clubs came to see our show.



This was the Propagation table at the Omaha show, the outstanding drawing feature of the show, which was held in the Floral Court of the Joslyn Memorial. The table, set before a fountain, was centered with a maypole upon which violets were arranged. The cradle held the baby seedlings, and each stage of the violet was shown. Several miniature greenhouses were also shown. Experienced violet lovers were on hand to pass on the necessary information and answer any questions asked.



The Omaha show, which drew five thousand guests from all over the midwest, was held on April 29th and 30th. Pictured are the officers who made the show such a success. They are, left to right: Mrs. Edna Holmes, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Gepson, treasurer; Mrs. Howard Martin, president; and Mrs. I. E. Davis, vice president.

A KEY TO THE GENUS SAINTPAULIA

Evan Roberts, Mich.

The genus *Saintpaulia* has become known in cultivation as the African violet. Seven of the nine described species have been grown in the orchid house of the Horticulture Greenhouse at Michigan State College during the past years.

When *Saintpaulia* was first introduced from German East Africa by A. E. Walter R. von Saint Paul-Illaire in 1893 it included two closely allied species, *S. ionantha* H. Wendland and another species which was not then recognized as distinct. Later on the existence of two species was discovered. The true *S. ionantha* was given a second name, *S. kewensis*, and the other was incorrectly called *S. ionantha*. The discovery of *S. tongwensis* and *S. orbicularis* assisted in clearing up this confusion. We are indebted to Mr. B. L. Burtt for a full explanation of this matter in the *Gardners' Chronical* (London) ser. 3, 122, 23 (1947). Mr. Burtt has renamed the second of the species of the original introduction *S. diplotricha*.

The described species of *Saintpaulia* are contained within two mountain groups and within these groups of mountains they are sharply localized. One example will suffice to show this localization. *S. tongwensis* is restricted to a ledge of gneiss 50 yards long near the summit of Mt. Tongwe at 2,300 -- 2,400 feet. There are indications that it may become necessary to describe additional species which have been reported in other East African areas of high altitude.

When using the following key it should be kept in mind that under certain environmental conditions the vegetative parts of plants may become slightly modified. For this reason it is suggested that this key be used together with the photographs and descriptions of the species of *Saintpaulia* as they have appeared in previous volumes of the *African Violet Magazine*.

DESCRIPTIVE KEY

Stems branched, procumbent; pubescence of two types of hairs

Marginal hairs on corolla glandular

Leaf margins crenate-dentate; leaf bases subordinate; lower leaf surface greenish-white.

Staminodes 3; leaves suborbicular, obtuse at apices *S. grotei*

Staminodes 2; leaves ovate, acute at apices *S. amaniensis*

Leaf margins entire; leaf bases obtusely rounded; lower leaf surface purplish; staminodes 3 *S. goetzeana*

Marginal hairs on corolla non-glandular; staminodes 3; leaf margins crenate; leaf bases subcordate; leaves suborbicular to orbicular, obtuse at apices; under leaf surface greenish-white *S. magungensis*

Stems unbranched, short, the plants apparently acaulescent; marginal hairs of the corolla glandular

Pubescence on upper surface of leaves of only one type of hair, all hairs spreading

Staminodes 3; pubescence of petioles and peduncles of two kinds, the short ones retrorsely appressed, the long ones spreading; leaves medium to pale green above, whitish green below *S. tongwensis*

Staminodes 2; pubescence of petiole and peduncles of long and short hairs, all spreading; leaves dark green above purplish below *S. ionantha*

Pubescence on upper surfaces of leaves, petioles and peduncles of two types of hairs, the short ones antorsely appressed

Leaf margins crenate; leaves cordate or subcordate at base, acute or obtuse at apices; flower 1.5 cm. or more in diameter; filaments shorter than corolla lobes

Leaves ovate to ovate-lanceolate, acute at apices; flowers uniform in color, varying from dark to pale violet *S. diplotricha*

Leaves orbicular, obtuse at apices, flowers pale, lobes whitish, with dark ring near filaments, outer surface with pale crimson mid-vein *S. orbicularis*

Leaf margins entire; leaves obtuse at both ends, violet below; flowers about 1 cm. in diameter, the filaments as long as corolla lobes.... *S. pusilla*

The author expresses his gratitude to Dr. Charles L. Gilly, Dept. of Botany, Michigan State College for his assistance in the preparation of this key.

ALL FOR A VIOLET

Carl and Betty Hahn, N. J.

"They're really not violets at all you know -- but Saintpaulias," but no matter what you call them they can make you their slave for life! !

It all started on May 28th this story -- I mean. We had been African violet fans for several years, and had been growing and hybridizing our own plants for about three years when on May 28th at a friends house we got a glimpse of the new Blue ribbon winner at the Chicago, African Violet Society Convention, Pink Cheer. One look and my husband and I decided that this one was a "must". Out came the maps and route and distances were figured to Gent's Greenhouses in Webster, New York State. Since vacation time was just around the corner we began to plan.

Since we did not want to make a three hundred mile trip and just bring back one plant my husband decided to make some kind of a table or platform for the back of our car, that took more planning, but nothing is too much for a violet fan. If we both hadn't come down with heavy colds the first week of our vacation it never would have happened, the story, I mean While waiting for our colds to clear up we happened to see a lovely station wagon (1949) in beautiful condition. We had been toying with the idea of getting one for a long time and the time seemed ripe for it now. If we had this, we told ourselves, we wouldn't need to build the table. You guessed it, we fell for it. A few days more and the station wagon was ours.

On June 24th friends came to see us off on our trip which was to be the hottest and most memorable one of our entire lives I believe.

We headed for Pennsylvania's Grand Canyon where we spent the night. The rolling hills were beautiful and we found a good place to stay, but it was getting pretty warm.

The next morning we continued to Warsaw to visit Henry Ten Hagen's Greenhouse and arrived there to read on the door that his place was closed on Wednesday afternoon. We drove over to his house and found him just ready to leave, but being the fine fellow he is, he went over and opened up so that we could see his plants. They were wonderful and we were able to see for the first time some of the varieties we had read about in the African Violet Magazine. We bought 27 plants and said goodbye and headed for Webster.

By this time the heat was terrific; since we had not seen the papers we did not know that the temperature was breaking all records.

By mid-afternoon we reached Gent's, and had the thrill of seeing thousands of African violets.

Several hundred plants of Pink Cheer grouped together were a magnificent sight. Another breathtaking display was a group of a sport of Marine Amazon covered with gigantic medium blue flowers.

He had benches of other members of the Gesneriaceae. I was especially interested in the Gloxinias as I have been growing them for some years and have been very successful in hybridizing them.

We spent a good while in selecting our plants and it was late in the afternoon before we were ready to leave for home.

By this time our plant family in the car had grown to about 80.

We intended to stay in Canandaigua but didn't see a place on the road we took that looked cool or quiet and so kept on; what a mistake! Not being familiar with that part of the country we did not realize that it was not thickly settled and it was 7:30 before we came to more cabins. In desperation we stopped. The beds were clean and comfortable but what we did not know was the fact that hidden behind an innocent looking grove of trees was the main freight tracks of northern New York State, and that the narrow road we had been travelling gave birth after dark to a constant stream of trailer trucks. Between trains there were trucks and visa versa. I have often wondered what it would be like to spend the night at 42nd and Broadway, now I know . . .

The plants looked fresher than we did next morning as we resumed our journey. By now we were estimating the time of our arrival in Basking Ridge. Down through the lovely Wyalusing Mountains we drove and then on top of the Poconoes it happened. One minute we were rolling along, happy at the thought of getting home and then a crunch inside the hood of the car and we stopped short. We let it roll off the road. While my husband walked a half mile in the blazing sun for help I spent the time fastening news papers to the windows of the car with scotch tape to shade the violets.

Before long my husband arrived with a tow car and we were pushed four miles to a garage. You can imagine our concern over the fate of our plants. When the owner of the garage saw the violets he said, "Don't worry, my wife is an African violet fan and I'll put all your plants in my station wagon and take you over to the house and you can stay all night with us. You and my wife can talk violets while I find out what's wrong

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"The Saintpaulia becomes a Modern Missionary"

Maretta C. Wilcox, N. Y.

There used to be a radio program, which urged its listeners to send in three very unrelated subjects and the performer would warp them into a most incredible story. That is what happened in Bergen, New York!

Our three subjects would be "African Violet Magazine," "An Errand" and a "Missionary Society."

The time was early August 1951.

The place was Bergen's 150 year old Presbyterian Service Building.

The characters of the story were three friends; The Missionary Society President; the Sweepstake winner at the Rochester, New York, African Violet Show, Mrs. A. H. Ricketson of North Chili, New York and Mrs. Ira Keller, a violet hobbyist. All three are new members of the Rochester Society and the African Violet Society of America.

The story begins with a search for a project to raise funds for the work of the Missionary Society by its president Mrs. George C. Wilcox (that's me!)

The errand was a stop at Mrs. Ricketson's where I saw my first African Violet Magazine, which had just arrived. While the other two ladies were busy, I read it from cover to cover and right then and there I had my idea for our project -- an African Violet Show under the auspices of our Missionary Society.

As soon as possible I was avidly reading every bit I could find about "Saintpaulia," a fascinating story if ever there were one.

Next came a visit to Mrs. Elroy Coniber's in Batavia, an authority on African violets . . . where we confided our dream and found her most co-operative to the very last. From her I purchased some beauties to use in flower arrangements. A similar trip to the Webster, New York greenhouse of John Gent . . . From his breath taking display several more beauties came to live at our house. I had to become a real intimate disciple of Saintpaulia. Up to this time I had never owned more than one, the gift of a friend.

When my two friends returned from their conference I fairly exploded my dream to these two old hands at raising African violets. They saw possibilities so with their promise that they would back me in this project, the executive committee was called and with all my heart and soul in the cause I explained my plan. I received only lukewarm enthusiasm and the promise from the group

that they would back me 100% if I would be the general chairman.

Now a flower show, planned by an African Violet Society is one thing . . . In a Society, most members are proud owners of beautiful plants and feel a real obligation to bring plants to make a successful exhibit. Not so in a Missionary Society! The idea had to be sold to skeptical people with questions galore.

Who will exhibit?

Are you sure folks will bring plants?

Are many interested in African violet shows?

Isn't it the wrong time of year?

Suppose no one or only a few do enter?

How are we going to reach people with the idea that they are urged to exhibit?

Ah! Ah! Madame Chairman a challenge!

This called for strategy for we were to charge an admission fee to be used entirely for Missions and our public would expect value received. A visit to the office of Batavia Daily News proved them very co-operative in giving space to "write ups" concerning our plans. Station WBTA at Batavia our county seat, gave us several announcements at intervals and the day before our show their "Penny Wise" gave us a 15 minute interview. Rochester Station WHAM likewise enthusiastically plugged our show. The Garden Editor of the Rochester papers gave us a boost and a fine notice appeared in the Buffalo papers.

We had 200 mimeographed entry lists ready very early to pass out to our friends. Next we decided to have a mimeographed program for Show Day, charging various amounts for advertising space in it. This paid all of our expenses so the admissions were free to be used for Missions. I know now we far underestimated our public who are African violet Hobbyists!

While soliciting our advertising we were able to line up commercial displays of new varieties, pottery and commercial products used in growing violets. In soliciting "ads" we emphasized the African violet rather than Missions. We arranged for a culture table with a short demonstration of how to transplant, propagate from leaves and answer questions. This was ably handled by Mrs. Robert Slocumb, president of the Rochester African Violet Society. Miss May Crompton of Batavia had a splendid exhibit of seed propagation, showing plants in many stages of development. In a large terrarium we had a fine exhibit of plants recovering from common pests and ailments with the accompanying treatment used. All those plants were safely thru their hardships.

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No So Called "Green Thumb" Needed To Grow Saintpaulia

Lorna Anderson, Mich.

Welcome, new amateur members of the National Violet Society. You, too, may soon be growing lovely plants like the older members, with a little coaching from the sidelines.

Start off on the right foot by selecting young plants that are healthy and free of disease from a reliable person or dealer.

For constant bloomers and easy to grow plants, start with some of the older varieties such as Blue Boy, Blue Girl, Pink Girl, Blue Bird, White King, Mary Wac, Jessie, Tinari's Red Head and Double Duchess. This offers a fair assortment of colors for the beginner.

If you have an east window, this is my preference, although the south and west are very good. However, all must be protected from the hot sun -- I use awnings. North exposure is good in summer, too.

It is important to ask the dealer if he can tell you about the soil and when he thinks the plant will need feeding. The soil I use requires no extra food for a year after it is transplanted into three inch pots.

I find that a room temperature is best from 65° to 75°. If you have a way to control the heat and humidity, that is, the moisture in the room, the best combination is 65° and 60% humidity. The average home is around 75° and 40 to 50% humidity. For lovelier foliage high humidity is very important. If your plants are grown in the kitchen, it is well to let the room steam up occasionally as the plants benefit greatly from this extra moisture.

Your soil should be a mixture of woods loam or leaf mold garden soil, black sandy soil, well-rotted cow manure and some commercial fertilizer. Also a very small amount of peat.

Often I am asked how frequently must one water plants. Watering is one of the main factors in keeping good plants healthy. Some people keep their homes warmer than others, so the warmer the home, the oftener you will have to water. You alone will have to find out how often you need to water by inserting your index finger into the soil to the first joint and turning the soil over. If it is dry that far down, give your plants in three inch pots a little over one-fourth cup of very warm water. For the four inch pots, use three-fourths cup of water. That is plenty for a couple days, or until you test again for moisture. I often let my plants wilt a little. Remember, too much water can be the death of a lovely plant.

Don't crowd a window or table with too many plants. Glass shelves, which can easily be installed by friend husband, will give ample space for more plants and they display your plants better, too. They can be obtained from your local glass dealer.

Some people disagree about the kind of flower pots to use. I use all white painted pots, purchased that way, and each pot stands in a glass sauce dish. These pots not only are uniform in size and appearance but also one doesn't have to be constantly scrubbing the green mold and other foreign matter that collects on the plain unglazed clay pots. Then, too, one doesn't have to water as often. The plants are just as lovely as the ones grown in clay pots. Be sure your pot has good drainage by placing broken pottery over the hole. Better yet place a small amount of sphagnum moss over the hole, then the broken pottery.

In selecting your new plants, buy single crowns as these are much prettier than multiple crown plants. When little sucker crowns or leaves start to form, push them off gently with a pencil. This will keep your plant well formed and by occasionally turning it, you will have symmetrical shaped plants.

When your plant has grown too large for the pot, it is time to transplant it into a size larger pot; for example, from a 3 inch pot to a four inch pot. For a plant which has developed a long stem or neck and is still a lovely bloomer, you may have to shift it to a much larger pot to get the desired depth. Remove the plant from its present pot and hold the ball of earth and plant in the left hand. This will make you feel bad but remove every leaf up to three-fourths inch from the crown. Now have the new pot ready with the broken crockery and some soil. Tilt the plant so that the long stem is standing as straight as possible, then fill around the stem clear up to where you left the leaves. Firm the soil. This won't look like a prize beauty but wait, and in a short time you will be well repaid.

Plants may be divided or transplanted at any time, regardless of bud or bloom, as this has very little effect upon their blooming. If starting from leaves, don't use leaves too large. Place wax paper over a bowl or glass of water and punch holes with a pencil. Leave about one and one-half inches stem on the leaf, insert through the holes and place in a north window or shady place until roots are about one inch long. Gently dry the leaf cutting and dip in powdered Rootone. Fill a small tin can firmly with vermiculite and dampen, not wet, it. Make a hole in it with a pencil and

Cont. on Page 57

REGISTRATION REPORT

Neil C. Miller

PART I

PLANT AND REGISTRANT

The following applications have been received during the period July 1, 1952 to October 1, 1952. No objections to registration are apparent.

Aloha 9-12-52

Mrs. Juanita M. Poisal
1937 Marconi Avenue
Sacramento, California

"This plant is a whole bouquet with its drooping wavy foliage, and bright colored flowers, each having a darker eye. Flowers form a bouquet on top of plant being evenly spaced. Color is red violet with blue violet eye and shading."

Blue Morning Glory 9-6-52

Mrs. Lela Reichert
3114 Charles Street
Omaha 2, Nebraska

"Blue Morning Glory is compacta in shape, but not to be compared with the older ones. The leaves are thick and heavy, curve around the flower of a morning glory. Very quilted, deep dark green. Flowers are very large with five to seven on a stem, light blue, tissue thin, crinkled effect; well above the foliage. Plant is small grower, about five inches across, leaves are large. Very different. Good bloomer."

Breath of Spring 8-25-52

Mrs. Edwin Anderson
218 N. Magnolia Avenue
Lansing 12, Michigan

"A symmetrical plant with nearly round leaves that are shiny, some quilted. The dark pink blossoms, darker than Pink Cheer, are held just above foliage on strong stems. Something different in pink."

Bunny Ears 7-21-52

Mrs. F. G. Backstrom
441 Birch
Ashland, Nebraska

"The two top petals are completely disjoined and each curls back, just like bunny ears; the bloom is a different shade of purple and very frilled and ruffled, the foliage is medium dark green and it is slightly fringed and ruffled. It is a very compact plant and a profuse bloomer."

Crested Plato, Antique Marble 8-22-52

Mrs. Edwin Anderson
218 N. Magnolia Avenue
Lansing 12, Michigan

"This is a very unusual plant with most of the leaves marbelized rather than variegated. Upright growing. The leaves are so deeply lobed the plant appears to be crested."

No. 7 Crested Plato Series.

Crested Plato, Bagonia 8-26-52

Mrs. Edwin Anderson
218 N. Magnolia Avenue
Lansing 12, Michigan

"A pretty shaped, cool green plant with leaves that give it an all over crested look." No. 16 Crested Plato Series

Crested Plato, Blue Spruce 8-26-52

Mrs. Edwin Anderson
218 N. Magnolia Avenue
Lansing 12, Michigan

"A very symmetrical plant with gracefully reflex petioles. Pretty two-tone effect leaves with rich purple blooms reminds one of blue spruce. Profuse bloomer." No. 30 Crested Plato Series.

Crested Plato, Bridal Wreath 8-26-52

Mrs. Edwin Anderson
218 N. Magnolia Avenue
Lansing 12, Michigan

"A very symmetrical plant, with every leaf a different size and shape, making it look like a bride's bouquet, with differ-

ent foliage placed around the clusters of flowers, very outstanding." No. 27 Crested Plato Series.

Crested Plato, Climax 8-26-52

Mrs. Edwin Anderson
218 N. Magnolia Avenue
Lansing 12, Michigan

"This plant closely resembles Romance except leaves are smaller, no two leaves alike." No. 15 Crested Plato Series.

Crested Plato, Cutie 8-26-52

Mrs. Edwin Anderson
218 N. Magnolia Avenue
Lansing 12, Michigan

"A very symmetrical plant, with dainty foliage and flower, leaves more pointed on this plant." No. 11 Crested Plato Series.

Crested Plato, Driftwood 8-26-52

Mrs. Edwin Anderson
218 N. Magnolia Avenue
Lansing 12, Michigan

"Flower Color -- V. 2. Reverse, overcast silver. A very symmetrical plant, large amount of silver green showing around the lobed margin of leaf." No. 24 Crested Plato Series.

Crested Plato, Goldleaf 8-21-52

Mrs. Edwin Anderson
218 N. Magnolia Avenue
Lansing 12, Michigan

"Flowers -- five to nine on three inch stems, just above foliage, color B. V. 4 -- darker in center, slightly ruffled petals. A very graceful, clean habit plant." No. 3 Crested Plato Series.

Crested Plato, Heaven Sent 8-22-52

Mrs. Edwin Anderson
218 N. Magnolia Avenue
Lansing 12, Michigan

"This is one of the loveliest of this series. Very symmetrically shaped and striking with its two-tone leaves and dark blooms. The deep coloring on petioles and under side make this a colorful plant in every way. Very large." No. 8 Crested Plato Series."

Crested Plato, Harbor Lights 8-21-52

Mrs. Edwin Anderson
218 N. Magnolia Avenue
Lansing 12, Michigan

"Flower Color -- B. V. 2. silver purple back, with six to eight flowers on three inch stems down in the center of the plant. Very pretty upright growing plant." No. 5 Crested Plato Series.

Crested Plato, May Apple 8-21-52

Mrs. Edwin Anderson
218 N. Magnolia Avenue
Lansing 12, Michigan

"Well shaped plant, all leaves different in shape. Flowers held high enough to show off well. This plant is similar to No. 12 of this series except these flower petals are rounded, while on No. 10 they are pointed and cupped upward." No. 18 Crested Plato Series.

Crested Plato, Mipal Edwin 8-26-52

Mrs. Edwin Anderson
218 N. Magnolia Avenue
Lansing 12, Michigan

"Leaf: repand, sinuate, very deeply lobed to give a ruffled look, tip obtuse margin, diminishing somewhat in old leaves. Silver green spot at base extending upward and out, same showing on margin. Flower -- two to eight on three inch stems just above foliage. Color V. B. 3. Very graceful symmetrical plant with hardly two leaves alike." No. 21 Crested Plato Series.

Crested Plato, My Rosery 8-23-52

Mrs. Edwin Anderson
218 N. Magnolia Avenue
Lansing 12, Michigan

"Leaf-Sinuate, deeply lobed margin, tip obtuse. Color G. 1 -- pale green spot at base upward and out, some showing around margin. Flowers -- four to ten on stems, held well above foliage. A very lovely symmetrical plant." No. 9 Crested Plato Series.

Crested Plato, Old Smoky 8-21-52

Mrs. Edwin Anderson
218 N. Magnolia Avenue
Lansing 12, Michigan

"A handsome plant with blossoms that resemble Mentor Boy, beautiful combination with its crested-like dark foliage." No. 4 Crested Plato Series.

Crested Plato, Paul Martin 8-26-52

Mrs. Edwin Anderson
218 N. Magnolia Avenue
Lansing 12, Michigan

"Another two tone green, very uniform in shape, beautiful with its dark purple blossoms, no two leaves shaped alike." No. 20 Crested Plato Series.

Crested Plato, Primrose 8-26-52

Mrs. Edwin Anderson
218 N. Magnolia Avenue
Lansing 12, Michigan

"A beautiful symmetrical plant, with its clusters of flowers held high on long stems, reminds one of a primrose." No. 22 Crested Plato Series.

Crested Plato, Prof Carrick Wildon 8-19-52

Mrs. Edwin Anderson
218 N. Magnolia Avenue
Lansing 12, Michigan

"This is a very beautiful plant with blossoms that stand well above foliage and resembling Mentor Boy in color. One of the loveliest of this series." No. 1 Crested Plato Series.

Crested Plato, Prof Evans Roberts 8-21-52

Mrs. Edwin Anderson
218 N. Magnolia Avenue
Lansing 12, Michigan

"This is a lovely, flat, evenly growing plant, with upright blossom stems, and the two top petals slightly ruffled." No. 2 Crested Plato Series.

Crested Plato, Purple Heather 8-26-52

Mrs. Edwin Anderson
218 N. Magnolia Avenue
Lansing 12, Michigan

"This perfectly shaped round plant is in the class all by itself, as there are hardly two leaves alike on it and the spreading and spacing of the flower stems makes it look like a child's bouquet of wild violets." No. 31 Crested Plato Series.

Crested Plato, Ruffled Nylon 8-26-52

Mrs. Edwin Anderson
218 N. Magnolia Avenue
Lansing 12, Michigan

"This is as precious as Nylon, each leaf different, giving it a lacy, ruffled, frilly look. A very different Saintpaulia." No. 26 Crested Plato Series.

Crested Plato, Romance 8-26-52

Mrs. Edwin Anderson
218 N. Magnolia Avenue
Lansing 12, Michigan

"Leaf -- Typically cordate, repand, often irregularly and deeply lobed, tip obtuse margin. G. 1 and a half shade darker, having two tone effect, with underside overcast with anthocyania pigment. Flower Color -- B. V. 4, reverse side silvery. A dainty compact plant with its two tone leaves with hardly two alike." No. 14 Crested Plato Series.

Crested Plato, Ruth Yoars 8-21-52

Mrs. Edwin Anderson
218 N. Magnolia Avenue
Lansing 12, Michigan

"This is a very striking beautifully shaped plant, profuse bloomer, with its lovely flowers held above the dark foliage to give it the appearance of an old fashioned corsage." No. 6 Crested Plato Series.

Crested Plato, Shamrock 8-26-52

Mrs. Edwin Anderson
218 N. Magnolia Avenue
Lansing 12, Michigan

"A well shaped plant, with flowers in which the petals separate somewhat and the middle lower petals are creased in center. This plant also reminds one of a primrose. Flowers well above foliage on long stems." No. 23 Crested Plato Series.

Crested Plato, Slopoke 8-26-52

Mrs. Edwin Anderson
218 N. Magnolia Avenue
Lansing 12, Michigan

"Leaf -- Repand, sinuate, deeply lobed and irregular, tip obtuse, margin. B. G. 1, reverse silver green, lightly overcast with anthocyania pigment. Silver spot at base extending up and out. Glossy, hairy and slightly quilted. Flower Color -- V. 2, reverse light silver. Rosette, spreading, medium size pretty plant." No. 29 Crested Plato Series.

Crested Plato, Snow Flake 8-26-52

Mrs. Edwin Anderson
218 N. Magnolia Avenue
Lansing 12, Michigan

"A handsome plant, very symmetrical and clean looking, and unique with its marbelized foliage." No. 13 Crested Plato Series.

Crested Plato, Summer Breeze 8-26-52

Mrs. Edwin Anderson
218 N. Magnolia Avenue
Lansing 12, Michigan

"A lovely green foliage makes a beautiful background for such dark flowers. Very well shaped and spaced foliage." No. 10 Crested Plato Series.

Crested Plato, Varigeta 8-26-52

Mrs. Edwin Anderson
218 N. Magnolia Avenue
Lansing 12, Michigan

"Leaf -- Repand, sinuate, deeply lobed, tip obtuse, margin. G. 1, lighter green edge, reverse light green, overcast with anthocyania pigment, cupped upward, silver green spot at base up and out and some showing on margin. Flower Color -- V. 2, reverse silver cast. Rosette, spreading, well shaped plant with two-tone effect." No. 19 Crested Plato Series.

Crested Plato, Whispering Hope 8-26-52

Mrs. Edwin Anderson
218 N. Magnolia Avenue
Lansing 12, Michigan

"This is a lovely plant, with its unusual glossy two-tone foliage and dark wine purple blooms, profuse bloomer." No. 25 Crested Plato Series.

Crested Weeping Angel 7-28-52

Mrs. Edwin Anderson
218 N. Magnolia Avenue
Lansing 12, Michigan

"Very unusual, no two leaves alike, the silver green at base of leaf shows around margin lobes. Profuse bloomer. Hanging basket type." No. 1 Crested Weeping Series.

Crested Weeping, April Showers 7-28-52

Mrs. Edwin Anderson
218 N. Magnolia Avenue
Lansing 12, Michigan

"A very symmetrical plant with reflexed spreading leaves, reminding one of soft spring showers. Very large, basket type plant." No. 6 Crested Weeping Series.

Crested Weeping, Baby Doll 7-28-52

Mrs. Edwin Anderson
218 N. Magnolia Avenue
Lansing 12, Michigan

"Leaf crenate, fissum, lobed margin, deeply lobed and irregular. No two leaves alike. Leaf color G.1 -- pale green veins with splashes of light green on some margins and throughout the leaf to give it a patterned effect, extending from base of leaf up and outward. Very glossy. Flower B. V. 5, three inch stems in center of plant, their petals extended forward like little arms. Unusual and interesting hanging basket type." No. 5 Crested Weeping Series.

Crested Weeping, Beauty 7-28-52

Mrs. Edwin Anderson
218 N. Magnolia Avenue
Lansing 12, Michigan

"Flower color V. B. 5 -- darker in center, two top petals ruffled, five on three inch stems just above foliage. Rosette, spreading, large plant. One of the best of this series, hanging basket type." No. 10 Crested Weeping Series.

Crested Weeping, Birch 7-28-52

Mrs. Edwin Anderson
218 N. Magnolia Avenue
Lansing 12, Michigan

"Flower color B. V. 4 -- twelve to cluster, short stems. Leaves look like they were double or treble because of their unusual deeply lobed and ruffled appearance. Hanging basket type, large plant." No. 4 Crested Weeping Series.

Crested Weeping, Inspiration 7-28-52

Mrs. Edwin Anderson
218 N. Magnolia Avenue
Lansing 12, Michigan

"This is the most unusual plant of the Crested Weeping Series. The lobes are so deep and irregular, it makes the margin look like different sizes of mouse ears. The center leaves look crested. Large, spreading, hanging basket type." No. 9 Crested Weeping Series.

Crested Weeping, Lorna Doone 7-28-52

Mrs. Edwin Anderson
218 N. Magnolia Avenue
Lansing 12, Michigan

"Crenate, repand margin, younger leaves lobed and orbiculate, less so in older ones. G. 1. color leaf with lighter green margin. Some leaves wavy. Flower color B. V. 4 -- darker center, eight to twelve on three inch stems that face outward around plant above leaves. An outstanding and unusual plant. Profuse bloomer. Hanging basket type." No. 2 Crested Weeping Series.

Crested Weeping, Nymph 7-28-52

Mrs. Edwin Anderson
218 N. Magnolia Avenue
Lansing 12, Michigan

"Leaf crenate, repand margin, young leaves lobed and orbiculate, becoming less so in mature leaves. Flower color B. V. 3 darker in center. A large plant, but dainty, like Weeping Fairy of this series." Hanging basket type." No. 3 Crested Weeping Series.

Crested Weeping, Strelitzia 8-19-52

Mrs. Edwin Anderson
218 N. Magnolia Avenue
Lansing 12, Michigan

"A perky plant with some leaves upward and out, with a bunch of blooms in the center, the older leaves down and out, giving it the stately appearance of the Bird of Paradise." No. 8 Crested Weeping Series.

Crested Weeping, Willow 8-19-52

Mrs. Edwin Anderson
218 N. Magnolia Avenue
Lansing 12, Michigan

"This plant lives up to its name sake with graceful leaves spreading and well spaced. One of the loveliest of this series. Hanging basket type." No. 7 Crested Weeping Series.

Dr. Frederick Swartz 8-19-52

Mrs. Edwin Anderson
218 N. Magnolia Avenue
Lansing 12, Michigan

"This plant resembles a colonial bouquet, symmetrical, and it also has a bronze-like effect. Profuse bloomer."

Georgiana 7-16-52

Mrs. George Stanley
River Road
Madison, Connecticut

"Blossom true lavender, with darker rays from center extending one third length of petal, leaf medium dark green with bright green veins on top. The underside of leaf is light green, almost white. The leaf is flat, not quilted, and is slightly serrated. Stems of flowers and leaves are green except near the crown they are tinted a little red. Plant, leaf, and blossom are about the same shape as Ionantha except that the leaf is flat. It grows about the same as Ionantha, but color of blossoms and leaves are not like Ionantha. Propagates easy and will bloom in seven to eight months from leaf. Has been vegetatively propagated three times. This is a seedling of Ionantha crossed with Pink Beauty. Tinted Lady grown in shade would be the nearest in color of leaf although it hasn't the satin sheen that this plant has. The flower is brighter than Tinted Lady."

Hanging Basket, Purple 9-14-52

Mrs. Clare Brown
R. D. 1, Box 119
Fayetteville, Pennsylvania

"Hanging Basket, Purple has been in propagation at least nine years, always propagates true. Blooms are deep purple, 1½" across. Plants slightly resemble Mentor Boy but a basket of leaves is formed on each flower stem. These baskets sometimes bloom and occasionally form baskets of their own. Leaves dark green, quilted, heart-shaped, reddish on reverse with red veins."

Hawaiian Skies 9-6-52

Mrs. Lela Reichert
3114 Charles Street
Omaha 2, Nebraska

"Hawaiian Skies, full double, orchid color with darker tips on petals. Leaves overlap each other. Large flowers, six to eight on stem, hang out over foliage which is very dark greenish brown. Red underneath, medium size grower, good bloomer. A cross from my Crystal Queen and Double Duchess."

Hawaiian Sunset 9-6-52

Mrs. Lela Reichert
3114 Charles Street
Omaha 2, Nebraska

"Hawaiian Sunset, a cross of Double Duchess and Crystal Queen. Semi double, reddish orchid flower, top darker bi-color, blooms in clusters 18 to 20 on a stem, that hang over a deep dark foliage. The contrast is truly beautiful. Medium size grower, good bloomer -- nothing like the older doubles."

Hypatica 8-25-52

Mrs. Edwin Anderson
218 N. Magnolia Avenue
Lansing 12, Michigan

"Leaf -- crenate, tip obtuse margin, overcast with anthocyanin pigment. Reverse light green, veins are a little lighter than the leaves. Flower color -- silver, overcast with light pink, center darker, reverse silver, cupped upward. This is a very unusual plant with a three tone effect."

Indian Maiden 9-17-52

Mrs. Anna L. Hall
334 Riverside Drive
Battle Creek, Michigan

"Cross of unnamed seedling and White Supreme. Girl type foliage. Leaves sharply pointed, suggesting arrowhead shape, thick and crisp. "Girl" spot outlined in mulberry. Blossoms lilac in color, lighter on back. Plant has a buoyancy of form, yet is not upright."

Inspiration 9-15-52

Spoutz A. V. Greenhouses
Mrs. Jennie Spoutz
34365 Moravian Drive
Fraser, Michigan

"Inspiration: Originating from Violet Beauty in supremesized flowers but not supreme-type habits. Flowers show generously behind a silver dollar, more than 7 buds on each stalk and held high and firmly above the foliage, which is medium green and toothed at the edges, tapered at the tip and only slightly hairy. Not brittle or slow-growing. Does not make suckers, instead of the plant growing to hairy leaves and short stems, this violet produces more and bigger flowers than any in its type that we've grown. Color of flower: pastel violet, shading deeper in center of bloom and brushed deeper into the petals."

Mademoiselle 7-16-52

Mrs. Anna Hall
334 Riverside Drive
Battle Creek, Michigan

"It has a thick, waxy, girl-type leaf; heart-shaped, dark green on top, with dark mulberry underneath. Also the stem and center of the leaf (usually light in "girls") is mulberry. The bloom is similar to Blue Girl."

Packs Lavender Star 8-11-52

Mrs. W. B. Pack, Jr.
R. F. D. No. 1
Moundsville, West Virginia

"Lavender Star is a nice plant, easily cared for, responsive to ordinary care and seemingly a long lived one, since the parent plant is now about ten years old. Not too large and still blooming almost continuously, the flower, of course

is the outstanding point since I have never seen or heard of one like it. Each pink petal has a band of bluish lavender beginning at the base, about the size of one third of the petal. This extends to the tip, usually widening to cover two thirds of the tip of each petal, this gives the effect at a distance, of a lavender mass when in full bloom."

Pink Honeysuckle 8-25-52

Mrs. Edwin Anderson
218 N. Magnolia Avenue
Lansing 12, Michigan

"This is a very well shaped plant that is flat and spreading with dark pink blooms on very strong stems."

Purplesheen 8-25-52

Mrs. Edwin Anderson
218 N. Magnolia Avenue
Lansing 12, Michigan

"Deep blue violet, darker center blossoms on four inch stems lie out and above leaves that are blood red on reverse side. Very striking in color and shape. Profuse bloomer, easily propagated."

Spring Beauty 8-25-52

Mrs. Edwin Anderson
218 N. Magnolia Avenue
Lansing 12, Michigan

"Leaf -- crenate, repand tip obtuse margin. Lighter green margin, reverse silver green. Overcast with anthocyania pigment. Flower color -- R. 6 pinker with darker center. A perfectly shaped plant with rich pink blossoms on strong stems, all around foliage."

Sweetheart 8-26-52

Mrs. Edwin Anderson
218 N. Magnolia Avenue
Lansing 12, Michigan

"This is a very symmetrical plant, standing upright and out, showing a large amount of anthocyania pigment in petioles and flower stems, so as to give it a reddish cast. The deep pink blooms have a shade darker center, and as dark if not darker than Pink Cheer. The ruffled leaves resemble its mother, my seedling "Prof" Chapman, truly a lovely plant."

Twinkle 9-12-52

Mrs. Juanita M. Poisal
1937 Marconi Avenue
Sacramento, California

"Twinkle seems to be the correct name of this Pink Girl and Periwinkle seedling. It is indeed a show plant of heavy scalloped leaf, single crown of good shape, twinkling blue flowers. This plant is a heavy bloomer, each flower standing out from the others and attracting much attention."

PART II

NAME RESERVATIONS

The following Name Reservations have been made during this period.

*Angel Girl Series
Anna Louise
Black Swan
**Cameo

Corn Husker Rose
Crested Multiflora
Dixie
Dolly

Donna Lee
*Elstad

Elstad Oak Leaf Cluster No. 1
Elstad Oak Leaf Cluster No. 2
Elstad Oak Leaf Cluster No. 3
Elstad Rudolph
Elstad Rudolph's Sister
Geisha Girl
Gibson Girl
Her Majesty
Illusion
Jane Barton

*Designates Series Reservation

**These are Restricted Reservations. There is indication in the Master File that plants carrying these names may be in existence. Anybody having a plant that carried either of these names prior to July 1, 1952 is requested to write in and note the fact. If plants under these names are not really in existence the names will be reserved for the present

Judy Girl
Madeline
*Mardi
Mardi Debbie
Mardi Rubarb
Mardi Lady Baltimore
Margaret Jane
Maude K.
Mary S.
Miss Blue
Myrtle Radtke
Odd Fellow
Pretty Miss
Ruby Queen
**Shady Lady
Sister Ruth
Theodosia
Violet Dream
White Swan

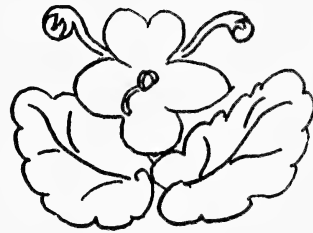
applicants, but if such plants do exist these Restricted Reservations will be canceled.

All requests for Name Reservation are carefully checked against the Master File of Varieties before reservation is granted. However, the Master File, although it contains in the vicinity of a thousand names, is known not to be complete. So it is possible that a Name Reservation request could be granted for a plant name that has already received some distribution. Anybody noting an instance of this occurring is invited to write to the Chairman of the Committee on Registration and point out the fact.

PART III

REGISTRATIONS BECOME PERMANENT

No valid objections have been filed against the plants published in Part I of the December 1951 Registration Report, so these registrations now become permanent. The same situation exists for plants published under Part II of the same Report, except that PARADISE being insufficiently propagated, is considered as a Name Reservation only.

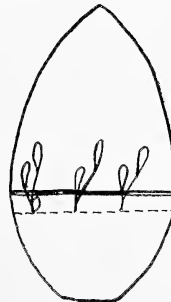


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Complete seed-sowing kit with modernistic two-piece container, 5 inches across by 7½ inches high of clear plastic, through which the growth of the tiny seedlings may be easily observed, soil and drainage material, together with detailed instructions, and a package containing at least 200 of our fine hybrid seed. Postpaid complete for only \$2.00

PLANTS

LEAVES

SEED

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Lafayette, Calif.

Solution-

A Lazy Susan

Janet Smith, N. J.



Mrs. Smith

As is the fate of every real African violet enthusiast, my collection was expanding so rapidly -- that I soon ran out of space. After a conference with my husband, we decided that the best course of action would be the addition of window shelves.

All during the summer months, my plants on the shelves bloomed beautifully, and seemed quite happy with their surroundings. But oh, the shock,

not only to the violets, but to me when the screens were taken down for the winter season. My poor little violets just could not stand the unfiltered sun -- they began to burn, and soon lost all desire to bloom! And as if the sun wasn't enough for them to contend with, the nightly frost forming on the window panes began to freeze the outer leaves.

The situation called for really fast action! So I went into a hurried (and harried) conference with my husband who finally saved the day with the decision to make a "lazy susan" and place it in our bay window.

He made the three shelves out of $\frac{3}{4}$ x 10 inch pine, V-jointed on the face side, and cleated on the bottom side. The bottom shelf is 30 inches in diameter, middle shelf is 21 inches, and the top shelf is 12 inches. The first shelf is 27 inches from the floor, with 12 inches between each shelf. The base was cut 4 inches high on a 45 degree angle. The sturdy center pole, which supports the shelves, is made of $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch galvanized pipe. All three shelves turn individually, making it possible for each plant to receive its share of sunlight and shade.

My African violet plants are now safely and happily living in their new home. In fact, the first "susan" has proved so successful, that my husband has made a second one for me, and one for my mother.

The snapshot shows me with my first "susan" and a part of my near hundred varieties.

African Violet Handbook for Judges and Exhibitors.

Complete information for judges and holding shows, scale of points, as well as valuable information for everyone entering plants in a show.

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RUTH G. CAREY

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IMPORTANT NOTICE

For the past two years all local African Violet Societies and Clubs have been permitted to retain in their respective treasuries 50¢ (16.6%) of each of their local members' individual membership dues in African Violet Society of America. This generous and helpful allowance was made by the Society as a means of expressing great interest in and appreciation of all local African Violet Societies and Clubs everywhere.

It is our continuing hope and desire that there will ultimately be an African Violet Society or Club in every community throughout the Country where five or more of our members are living. In April, 1951 our Board of Directors voted unanimously to make it so that every such local Society or Club could become an integral part of African Violet Society of America by becoming an Affiliated Chapter of the Society. This factor was published to our entire membership on page 8 of the 1951-1952 Members Handbook.

Our Board has accordingly approved limiting the 50¢ deduction from individual membership dues to Affiliated Chapters only. And so, effective January 1, 1953, only Affiliated Chapters of the Society will be permitted to continue to deduct 50¢ of each of their local members' individual membership dues in this Society. It is highly important, therefore, that the officers and members of all local African Violet Societies and Clubs will read this notice in order that they may be governed by it in the future. This notice is repeated here for the second time (See paragraph 3 of the President's Message to the Membership, page 7 of the African Violet Magazine.)

Again, a most cordial invitation is extended to all local African Violet Societies and Clubs, that have not already done so, to become Affiliated Chapters of the Society, in order to continue to benefit by the 50¢ membership deduction. Certainly, the latchstring will remain within easy reach on our entrance door, so that any and all local societies and clubs can enter into full participation as affiliated chapters at any time. Again we repeat the following qualifications for Chapter Affiliation.

1. At least 25% of each affiliated chapter's local members must also be members of African Violet Society of America.
2. All officers of each affiliated chapter must be members of African Violet Society of America.
3. Each affiliated chapter must submit a copy of its Constitution and By-laws, and all amendments thereto, to African Violet Society of America.
4. Each affiliated chapter must submit a list of its entire membership, including its officers, to African Violet Society of America.

Such list is to be composed of the names and addresses of all local members. These lists are to be submitted once each year immediately after the election of new officers by Affiliated Chapters.

5. Each Affiliated Chapter must pay to African Violet Society of America annual Membership Dues of \$2.50

Effective January 1, 1953 all 50¢ membership deductions must be reported to African Violet Society of America by Affiliated Chapters at the time the \$2.50 individual membership dues of their members are sent to this Society by their Treasurers. This will be done on a simple form which will be furnished free of cost by this Society.

Boyce M. Edens,
Treasurer

AFRICAN VIOLETS

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QUESTION BOX



New Editor — Lois Minehan 29 Circuit Drive Binghamton, N. Y.

With this the December issue Laretta Littig is retiring as editor of the Question Box. In the future this column will be continued in the capable hands of Lois Minehan, who will edit the Question Box for the coming year. It is therefore a time to say welcome to Lois and with deepest appreciation for all her good work -- goodbye to Laretta. We will be grateful for your cooperation in addressing your questions to:

LOIS MINEHAN, 29 CIRCUIT DRIVE
Binghamton, New York

When we hear of people losing their African violets from nematodes and other pests, it makes us realize how necessary it is to sterilize our soil before potting our plants.

I have always used a Formaldehyde solution for sterilizing my soil and had no trouble. However, I am now informed that it is doubtful if this will kill nematodes. So from now on I shall bake my soil as it's "better to be safe than sorry."

A number of people have asked how long soil should be baked and at what degree. This, of course, depends on the amount of soil baked at one time.

In order to find the proper way, I asked Mr. H. G. Harvey to tell us his method of baking soil. You will recall his very fine article on "Soil Preparation" in the June magazine. His interesting reply will be found under "Answers."

I have also had a number of inquiries about the best kind of containers for African violets.

My plants are in plastic and glazed pots, lava pots, glass goblets, a strawberry jar, plastic wick fed pots, small glazed containers with no opening in the bottom, ordinary clay pots, and a pumice stone hollowed out with a chisel. All these plants are healthy and bloom well. If there's a container they like least, I'd say it is the one with no opening in the bottom. If there's one they like best, I believe it's the one in the hollowed out pumice stone.

Plants in the plastic and glazed containers should not be watered as often as those in the clay pots. The containers with no opening in the bottom need plenty of drainage material and some charcoal bits to keep the soil sweet.

Well, Violet Friends, this is my last column for the "Question Box" as I seem to have too many other things right now to keep me busy.

I have enjoyed answering your letters, and hope you too have enjoyed the "Question Box" and benefited from it.

Best wishes to you all.

Laretta L. Littig

QUESTIONS

In the Registration Report of the African Violet Magazine, reference is made to colors, such as BV4 and VR6. I assume these are shades in some color chart. From whom can I obtain such a chart and how much?

Can you tell me the secret of making plants bloom when they are young? In raising plants from leaves it seems to take forever before they bloom. This is most important to us as our space is limited.

Mrs. Laura W. Burr, N. Y.

About a year ago, I started raising African violets. I bought \$300.00 worth, also Helen Wilson's book. I read the whole book and all the other information I could get. My plants were in bloom when I got them. From the book, I thought I had Cyclamen mites so gave them the hot water treatment and the plants all died. So I started all over again bought new plants, pots and soil. Now, I am having the same trouble. After the first blossom opens, the other buds dry up, get brown and hard. I use Marvel Spray on the plants and have them in the north window where they get plenty of light and fresh air. I keep limestone chips in the saucers. Although I get no blooms my foliage is beautiful and healthy looking. What can I do to make them bloom and keep the buds from drying up?

Ella M. Ledsinger, Maryland

I am a fairly new grower of violets and since transplanting from two inch to five inch pots, and using powdered cow manure and peat moss (purchased in sealed bags) with garden soil and sand, I find a definite retarding of growth and flowers. I figured maybe the pots were too large, and too much soggy soil in the bottom, so changed them again to four inch pots. To my dismay I found the new soil alive with quarter inch hair-like worms. I also find tiny black flies around some of the pots. The small plants I started two

months ago are at a stand still. Could it be the mixture or does the soil need sterilizing and how? I used to have continuous blooms but now I have none.

Mrs. Clara Carqueville, Ill.

I have read the best way to sterilize soil is to bake it but have found no articles on how to do it. Should it be wet or dry and how long should it be baked, and at what degree?

Mrs. Mamie Morton, Ill.

What kind of pots do you think are best for African violets? Some say the regular clay pots are the best, and that painted or glazed pots are not good for the plants. Is it all right to use containers with no opening at the bottom?

Mrs. E. Carlson, Ill.

An article titled "Fluorescent Bandwagon" by Robert and Frances Nicholson, D. C. -- stated that in an unheated basement in Washington, D. C. they were able to maintain a temperature of 65 to 70 degrees with the lights on. What on earth did they do when the lights were off? I really want to know as my basement is unheated and there are times, I am sure, the temperature is below 40 degrees or maybe lower. I am trying to find out all I can about this fluorescent light business as I intend to install it.

Rosa Mae Skeene, Oregon

ANSWERS

BAKING SOIL

I think the fundamental of sterilizing soil by heat is to have the coolest part of it at a temperature of 160 degrees for half an hour. I use a covered roaster which holds about three gallons (a bucketful). I stuck a roasting thermometer right in the center of the pan of soil and put it in the oven. It took two and a half hours at a 250 degree setting on the oven to get 160 degrees for half an hour on my roasting thermometer. So for my conditions, I bake for two and a half hours at 250 degrees setting.

If the soil is cooked dry, the exposed edges are liable to burn a bit. Frequent stirring would stop that even in an open pan, but I wet the soil and cover it. When I say wet, I mean wet. I put in between two and three quarts of water in the roaster, and there is actually a little water standing in the bottom of the pan. Then I put the cover on tight. The soil comes out nice and steaming and I know nothing has burned in it.

I have baked my soil this way for over four years and so far it has agreed with my violets.

H. G. Harvey, Ga.

WHITE FLOWERS ON BLUE EYED BEAUTY

To Mrs. J. F. Roche

I would keep my Blue Eyed Beauty out of the sun. I have never put mine in the sun but in the north or west window so you get lots of light

which will make a dark color in the flowers. Try putting a pinch of powdered lime in a cup of warm water and feed about once a month or until the flowers are darker. Sometimes Blue Eyed Beauty will put out all white, or blue and white, or all blue flowers depending on what you feed it.

Helen L. Burchell, Mich.

SPRINGTAILS

To Mrs. Frank Whiting, Mass.

You can get rid of Springtails by watering the soil in each pot with two or three drops of Black Leaf 40 to $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of warm water.

Helen L. Burchell, Mich.

LACK OF BLOSSOMS AND WHITE WORMS

To Mrs. Clara Carqueville, Ill.

I think you are doing the wrong thing in putting your tiny plants in large pots. This will not only retard their growth but will stop them from blooming. I would shift a plant from a two inch to a three inch pot rather than to a five or even a four inch pot.

As to the little white worms, I believe these are feeding on the organic matter in your soil, especially as you use cow manure. They probably would not harm the plant but it is well to get rid of them. Wet the soil with two teaspoons of Clorox in a quart of tepid water which should kill them. If you would sterilize the soil before potting your plants, that would get rid of these soil pests.

CROSSING SAINTPAULIAS WITH ACHIMENES AND GLOXINIAS

To Miss Daisy Jones, Tenn.

I used to have trouble getting crosses of Achimenes and Gloxinias to take on African violets but finally found out how. The pollen must be quite ripe, which is when the flower is withering. Take out the pollen carefully as it spoils easily. I cross the Achimenes and Gloxinia on to the African violet plant. I choose a plant with several flowers and cross every one of them to be sure to get at least one that will take. Blue Velvet is my choice African violet to make the crosses on as it seems to take better than other varieties.

These seed pods have been smaller for me and ripen much sooner than the African violet crosses but can't tell exactly how long as I didn't keep a record of it.

The foliage is usually very large and dark on the Gloxinia crosses which I generally use. The flowers vary -- sometimes large and flat and sometimes very unusual. I have even had plants blooming with little bells on them.

Helen Wagoner, Ind.

FLUORESCENT LIGHTS

To Mrs. Rosa Mae Skeene, Oregon

The section of our basement where my fluorescent tables are has never been colder than 55 to 60 degrees at night, and 65 to 70 degrees in

the daytime -- that is, with the tables protected by bedspreads or sheets.

Thus at night with the lights out and a natural drop in temperature outside, the place is bound to be colder. I feel that the lights do provide some heat when the tables are covered.

According to all the research articles on violets any temperature below 60 degrees will retard growth and flowering.

I would suggest trying to raise the temperature from 40 degrees by covering the table and maybe using an electric heater on very cold nights.

Mrs. R. C. Nicholson, D. C.

FLOWER COLOR CHART

To Mrs. Laura W. Burr, N. Y.

The revised New England Gladiolas Society Color Chart is \$2.00 mounted, or \$1.00 unmounted,

and can be obtained from the N. E. G. S., Horticultural Hall, Boston 15, Mass.

Evan Roberts, Mich.

MAKING SMALL PLANTS BLOOM

To Mrs. Laura W. Burr, N. Y.

As we know, to make small or large plants bloom, they must have a good balanced soil, plenty of light, humidity, fresh air, and proper watering. As to the small plants, I think most people make the mistake of putting them in too large pots. I have the best luck in putting the tiny plants in the smallest pots, 1½" or 2" size, depending on the amount of roots. They will bloom in these small pots and continue to do so for some time. When they require a larger pot, put them in a 3" and not a 4" pot. If you have plenty of space you can keep shifting them into larger pots but if your space is limited as mine is, keep them in the smaller pots as long as possible.

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NUTRITION OF THE AFRICAN VIOLET

(Conclusion)

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Jessie M. Rawson

Under the conditions of this experiment as regards to light, temperature, moisture, pH and season of the year the most profuse flowering occurred at 60 ppm. of NO_3^- (40 ppm. was a close second) when P was 10 ppm. and K was 20 ppm., at 20 ppm. of P when NO_3^- was 40 ppm. and K was 20 ppm., and at 10 ppm. of K when NO_3^- was 40 ppm. and P was 10 ppm. However, as no plants were grown at 60-20-10 it remains to be proven whether this is an optimum balance for the *Saintpaulia* at this season and under the environment noted.

Best vegetative growth occurred at 40 ppm. of NO_3^- when P was 10 ppm. and K was 20 ppm., at 100 ppm. of P when NO_3^- was 40 ppm. and K was 20 ppm., and at 0 to 10 ppm. of K (while the table shows 0 ppm. best, K tends to become available from the soil during spring and summer and the plant's needs may be supplied from this) when NO_3^- was 40 ppm. and P was 10 ppm. Again, however, 40-100-10 may not be an optimum nutrient balance under all conditions for best foliage production.

Phosphorus in liberal amounts even to 100 ppm. increased vigor and growth and caused the plants to utilize more nitrates. Nitrates appeared less toxic when phosphates were high. This is in accordance with the work of Shear, Crane and Myers (23) who found that as phosphorus increased the quantity of nitrates needed by a plant also increased. Or to state it another way, as nitrates were increased the phosphorus deficiency symptoms were accentuated where the phosphorus level was held constantly low. This observation was not noticed on *Saintpaulia*, however.

CONCLUSIONS

1. While *Saintpaulias* can be transplanted bare rooted successfully they suffer considerable shock and require some time to get back to normal. For this reason it is best not to damage the roots too much when shifting.

2. The original potting soil should not be too high in nitrates and potash or injury will occur.

3. Superphosphate should be used liberally in the potting soil to prevent red venation of the leaves and to protect the plants from overdoses of nitrogen.

4. No benefits were noted from the use of potash and no potash deficiency symptoms were observed. The soil used carried a small amount of potash and probably enough more became available during the trial to supply the plant's

needs. For this reason no conclusion could be made as to the potash requirements of the *Saintpaulia*. It would appear that most potting soils may contain sufficient potash. Further additions may be unnecessary as potash deficiency symptoms have neither been noted or reported.

5. Nitrogen was shown to be directly correlated to flower and leaf development and should be supplied at regular intervals in not too concentrated a form.

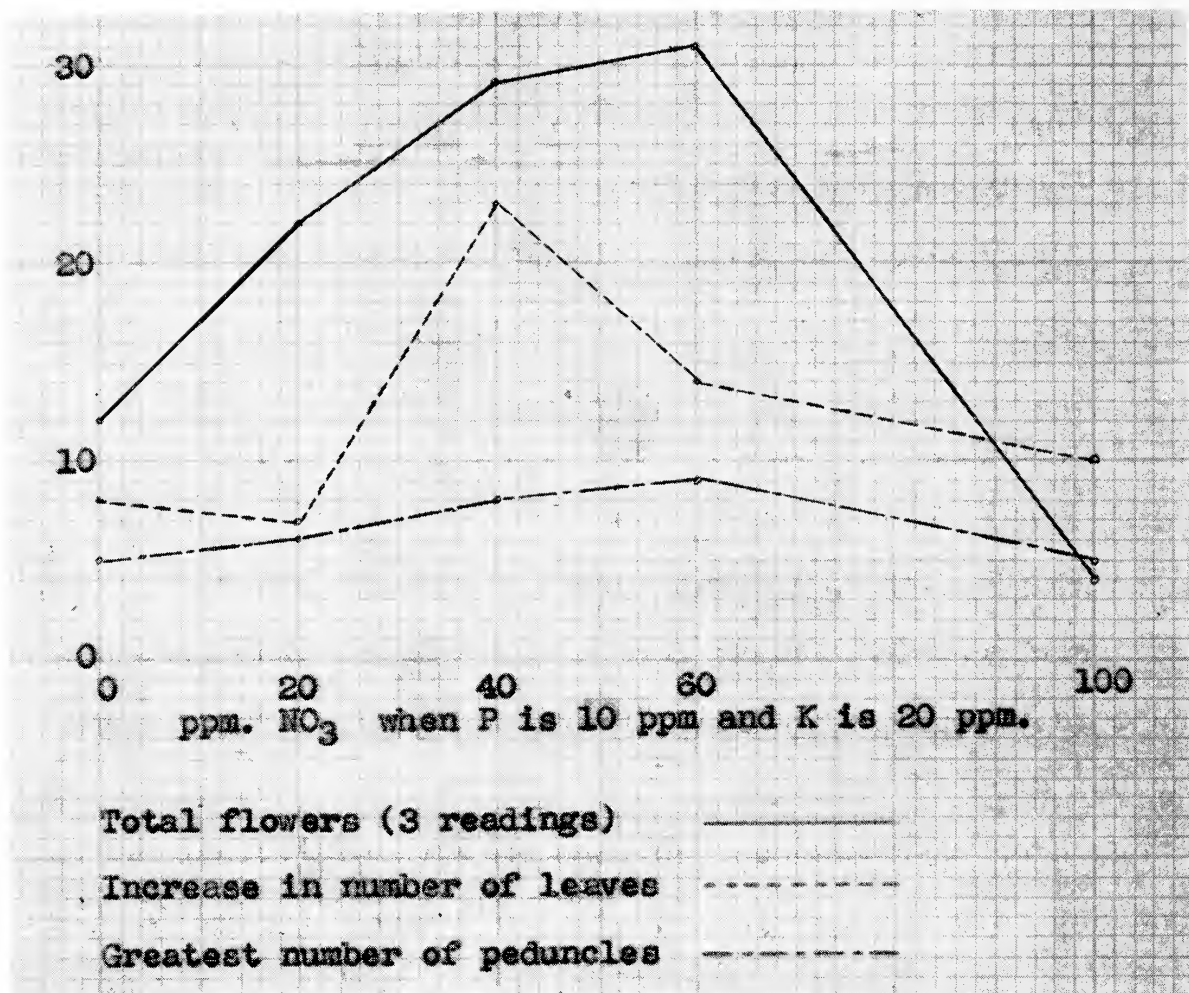
6. The total flowers per peduncle may be an indication of the health and nutrition of the plant but more observations need to be made to verify this. Very unthrifty plants will flower if they receive a proper amount of light but they seldom produce more than two or three flowers per peduncle. Healthy, well nourished plants will produce eight to twelve or even more flowers per peduncle.

7. While sand was used as the media here to obtain a low base exchange capacity and to facilitate testing and good plants were grown in it, a soil containing a considerable amount of organic matter should ordinarily be used.

8. It was found that NaNO_3 was not the best possible nitrate carrier because the sodium increased the pH above the optimum level when much was added, and also the sodium may be toxic to the plants.

9. Adding nitrates in small amounts and mixing the soil thoroughly between additions reduced nitrate toxicity in some manner not completely understood. Dr. L. M. Turk has suggested that perhaps the toxicity was due to large amounts of sodium in a soluble form when NaNO_3 was added in large amounts rather than to nitrate injury. Conversely, when NaNO_3 was added in small amounts and the soil was mixed thoroughly between applications the sodium was fixed either by the clay fraction or by the organic matter and consequently injury was lessened or did not occur even though a high test was indicated for nitrates. This may be true even though sandy soils have a low base exchange capacity and the particular one used had little organic matter present.

GRAPHS ARE ON FOLLOWING PAGES.



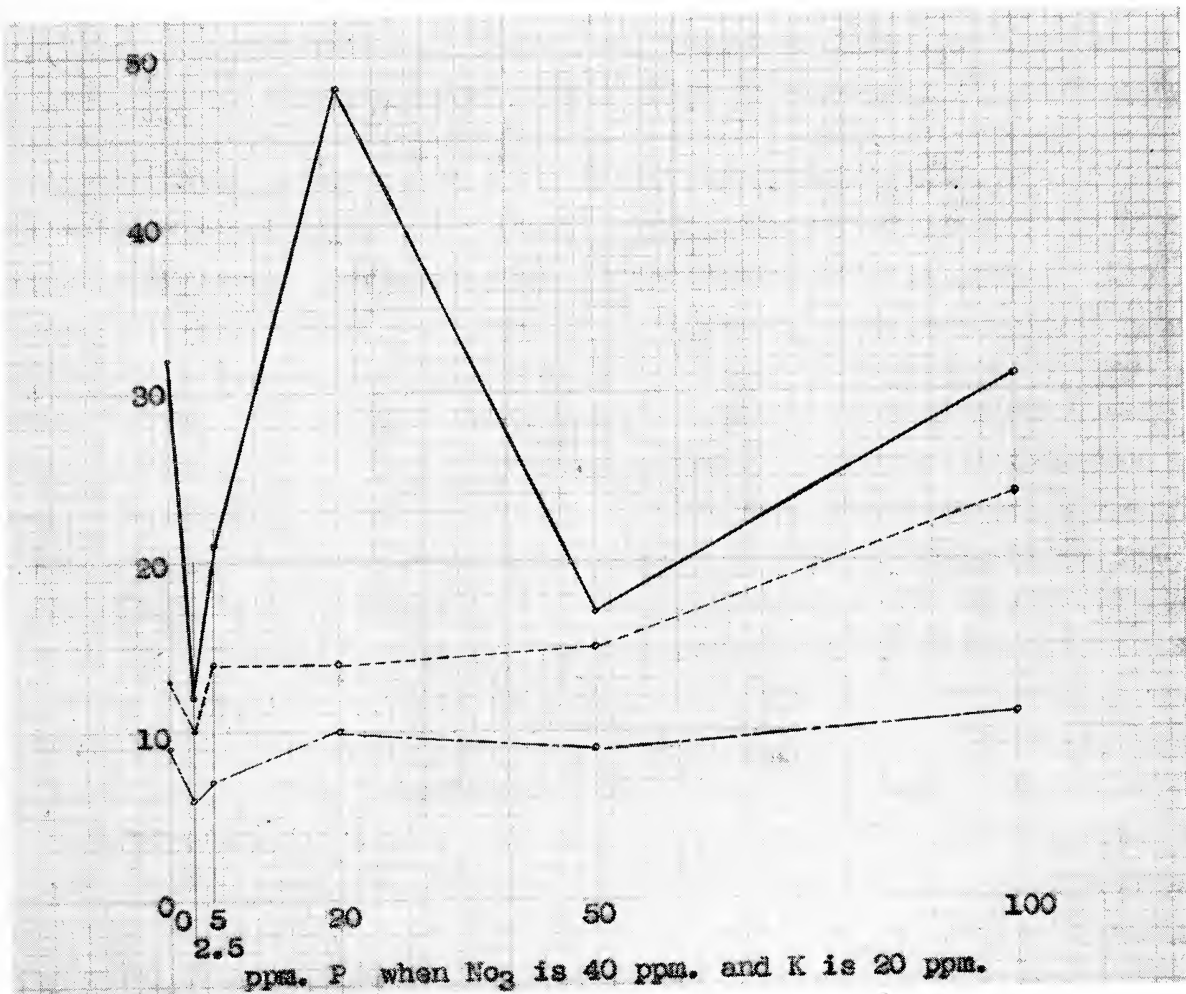
GRAPH I

Pot No.	ppm. NO_3	Flowers	Leaf increase	Peduncles
2	0	12	8	5
3	20	22	7	6
4	40	29	23	8
5	60	31	14	9
6	100	4	10	5
7	200	DEAD		
8	300	DEAD		

GRAPH II (Next page)

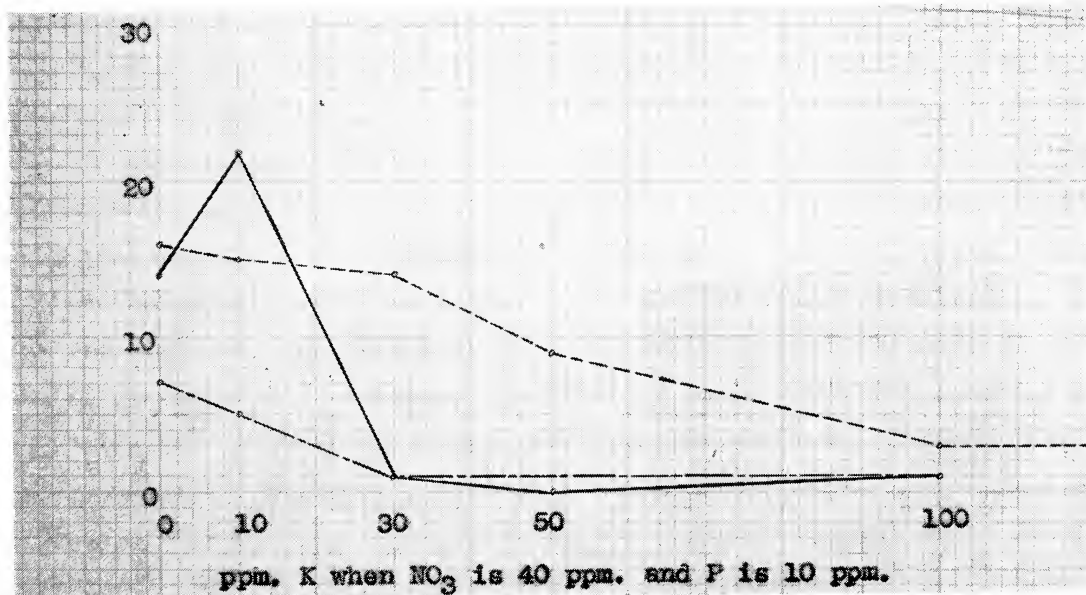
Pot No.	ppm. P	Flowers	Leaf Increase	Peduncles
9	0	32	13	9
*10 (C)	2.5	12	10	6
11	5	21	14	7
12	20	48	14	10
13	50	17	15	9
14	100	31	24	11

*The C pot was used as the A plant was dead.



GRAPH III (Below)

Pot No.	ppm. K	Flowers	Leaf Increase	Peduncles
15	0	14	16	7
16	10	22	15	5
17	30	1	14	1
18		0	9	0
*19 (B)		1	3	1
20		0	3	0



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SHORT CUTS IN PROPAGATING SAINTPAULIAS

Saintpaulias may be propagated as follows:

Lina Eidt, Ohio

1. **SEEDS:** In the June issue of "African Violet Magazine" I explained how seeds are obtained by pollination. A seed pod must remain on the plant until it is fully matured, then removed and dried. The seed pod is then cut open by using a needle and the seeds spread on paper. The end and one side may be sealed and the top left open for further curing of seed. After three or four months the seeds may be planted in a soil base of woods dirt, humus, or any other loose soil, Terralite, Agrilite, etc., also one third fine (chicken) charcoal which may be purchased from a feed store or garden supply store. This mixture should be sterilized either by chemicals or steam heat before using. It is then placed in plastic containers with lids. It is dampened and seeds are sown toward center to leave outer edge for watering and fertilizer as needed. When plants appear separate and place in another container with same mixture. These tiny plants may be removed with a damp toothpick and transplanted.

2. **LEAVES:** Choose leaves from healthy disease free plants -- preferably toward the center. Take from plants which have previously bloomed and are resting. Old worn out leaves invariably fail to grow or they produce weak plants.

Place leaves in mixture as recommended above. Dampen the soil. Place in rows so water may be added as needed by using a spoon to water between the front and back of leaves. For leaves rooting I have two tropical fish aquariums which were constructed from glass and puttied in aluminum strips. They measure 24" x 14" x 9". Over those I have a glass cover. Each will hold over 100 leaves planted in rows to a depth of one quarter inch. At first a label stick may be used to keep leaf upright. This will only be necessary for a few days. After from 5 to 8 weeks depending on variety plants will appear. I then remove plants with leaf attached and place in individual 2" pots or possibly larger if necessary. Feeding with commercial plant food according to direction is then done. After about three more weeks a plant at a time may be removed to allow more growth to take place.

There is much debate as to how much of the stem to let remain on leaf. I personally prefer a leaf with all the stem remaining and break it not cut-right close to plant. However leaves with little or no stem will produce a good number of plants but they are more susceptible to rot.

I have the greatest respect for patented and registered owners. I do not propagate with these varieties unless the owner gives permission. At one time in my files I had pictures and procedure

on all of the patented varieties, also letters from the inventors or originators. I consider it an unwise practice to give away what is not really yours. Years of testing and hard labor may have gone into the work if you don't believe it, try it yourself.

3. **PLANTS** with unusual leaf pattern: These leaf patterns seen rarely on plants may be rooted. Possibly a plant will grow from them with entirely new characteristics than the parent plant.

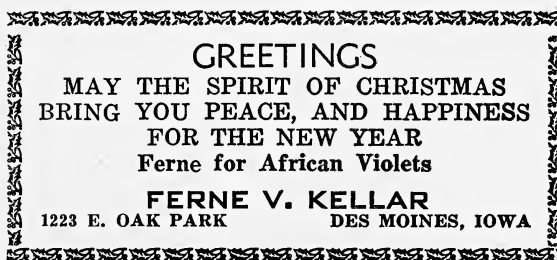
4. **SUCKERS:** I find that trying to root and raise a plant from a sucker is a long drawn out affair and hardly worth the effort. Yes, they will bloom perhaps a year later but a leaf will bloom sooner.

5. **DIVISION of CROWNS:** This may be done at the time when plants are four to five inches tall. A multiple crown plant to my mind is disorderly and unsightly looking and has poor formation.

6. **SIAMESE CROWNS:** In the case of crowns joined by growth I cut with a sharp knife and try to keep roots on both divides.

7. **LAST BUT NOT LEAST** is your plant. These when purchased from greenhouses or florist shop must go through the process of change. They must become acclimated to your growing conditions in the home. Soils vary and watering becomes a problem. I have bought many plants. Some are a year old and older. They remain as they were. Others do not grow but become stagnant. These I lift after a few weeks and find that the roots are browned and sometimes this is the same with the crown. In this case I cut all traces of the dry rot away, wash the plant in very warm water, rinse in lukewarm water then re-root in mica. Plants treated in this fashion survive and produce blooms that are as beautiful as the first ones.

In conclusion, I hope the above will be of help in producing better, and perhaps even golden Saintpaulias.





(By action of the Board of Directors, new members joining the Homing Pigeon after July 31, 1949 must be members of the National Society.)

Dear Members:

It is the fascination of the unpredictable that makes African violet growing such a rewarding hobby. We learn and grow by our mistakes. The heat of the past summer has been a challenge to all who grow Saintpaulias. From all sections of the country come reports of tremendous losses of plants, due to the heat and humidity. My personal experience has been that plants that are kept quite dry survive much better. My plants were terribly neglected during the hottest days, due to our moving, yet my losses were very few.

Woe is me -- my Pigeons have let me down. I need your help and support to make my column an interesting one. The hints I have received from your letters have been all too few this time. Without material -- I am having to fall back on my own hints. It won't be long before most of my hints will be all used -- then what will I do? It takes a lot of my valuable time to go through the Pigeon letters for hints and it is quite discouraging to find so few. Won't you please jot those hints down when you think of them and send them along in your Pigeons?

Please come to my rescue—

Your Hint Hunter

Helen Pochurek



HELEN POCHUREK

Arthur Road

Solon, Ohio

Homing Pigeon

News Editor

Note Mrs. Pochurek's new address. -- Editor

Buds will dry up before opening if the air is too dry. Humidity can be supplied by using a small electric vaporizer plugged in near your plants. Two hours a day is sufficient and about 2 quarts of water will be used in that time.

Dorothy Grey, Detroit, Mich.

Mold double thicknesses of heavy quality aluminum foil over a bowl top. Flatten center and flute edge and use as saucers for violet pots.

Lucy Lewis, Pownal, Vermont

One pound Crisco cans painted flat white and one coat of enamel make ideal containers for plants. Punch several holes in bottom, put in a generous amount of charcoal and then fill with regular potting soil. These will accommodate a good sized plant and will allow roots to spread out, rather than down.

Lucy Lewis, Pownal, Vermont

Use a leaf cutting 1 to 1½ inches long. Cut on the slant and then cut stem in quarters -- as in curling celery. Fill jar with boiled rain water. Place small stones in bottom of jar. Dip the leaf stem in a mixture of Rootone and Fermate -- enough to make a dirty color. Place in water. Tiny plants will form on all 4 tips of stem.

Aileen Bell, Cottonwood Falls, Kansas

One pound of 6% Formaldehyde will sterilize a bushel of soil.

Your Hint Editor

A plastic hatbox makes a fine temporary greenhouse when transplanting your large plants. The largest plant will fit under a hatbox very easily. Just invert it over the plant.

Lena McKay, Cleveland, Ohio

If your house plants have a musty, damp odor -- dust top of soil with sulphur.

Florence Cook, Lyndhurst, Ohio

A 250 watt, heat lamp that is commonly used for aching muscles can also be used to protect plants from the cold. Hang the lamp 2-3 feet above plants. Lamps cost about one cent an hour to operate. Be sure to use either the red or amber infra-red lamp -- not the white. The plants and soil will absorb the heat.

Your Hint Editor

From garden books I have found these two hints:

For the elimination of nematodes in potted plants submerge plant entirely and soak in water at a temperature of 85 to 95 degrees for 5 minutes -- then for 30 minutes at 113 degrees.

For powdery mildew -- use a solution of ¼ teaspoon of Fluorescin, (this chemical is used in life rafts to dye water as a rescue signal) and ¼ teaspoon Dreft to a quart of warm water. Use as a spray. When this solution hits the mildew spores, the light reflexion inactivates the spores, thereby stopping the spread of the mildew.

A small leaf will usually root much faster than a large leaf. This is particularly so in the case of the Supremes and the du Pont varieties. A big leaf will take forever to root, but a small one will root very quickly.

Just for the fun of it, one of these days, I'm going to drop a Saintpaulia (Whoa there!) seed in a gallon jug -- such as are used for vinegar or bleaches. First -- I'm going to put some fine charcoal or lime stone chips into the jug, using a funnel. Then, in will go some good soil, about 3 inches of it. Then -- a teaspoonful of peat moss and vermiculite mixed together. Next -- I'm going to put a super-duper seed on top of it all and put the top on. Then, I'm going to put it away from bright light till it germinates. Then I'm going to wait patiently to see what happens. I've seen cucumbers and ships in bottles but "nary an African violet." I'm going to keep it in the jug till it touches the sides. Should the seedling be anything special, I can always tie a string around the jug, soak it with kerosene and light it breaking the jug where I want it. Should be interesting, don't you think?

Homing Pigeon Membership Manager IVA G. WOODS

226 High Street
NEW WILMINGTON, PENNA.

IF YOU WISH TO JOIN A GROUP, OR IF YOU WISH
TO WITHDRAW FROM ONE, PLEASE COMMUNICATE
WITH IVA G. WOODS.

Dear Friends:

Greetings to you all -- in the past weeks I have heard from many of you with your requests and complaints. If any one else has a request or complaint please write to me. If any of you have belonged to a unit which no longer functions and you want to continue, write me, sending me your letter of introduction and you will be regrouped.

We have requests for several sectional groups, if you are interested in an all Canada, all Pacific Northwest, all Eastern group please write. We have a vacancy in the first all Kansas group. These groups will be filled as soon as we have sufficient requests. I have names to fill vacancies in your units if you will write for them.

Sincerely,

Iva Woods

Remember to use your violets during the holiday season. They can be used in so many decorative ways. Don't hesitate to take them out of their pots, wrap the soil in a piece of foil and use them in arrangements of all kinds. Refer to Volume 5, Number 3, March issue of this year for a few suggestions.

Your Hint Editor

AFRICAN VIOLETS FOR CHRISTMAS

Delight the violet fans on your Christmas list with a new variety or old favorite for their collection. Thousands of plants in bloom of over a hundred varieties, including choice specimen plants of the newer introductions such as Apple Blossom, Purple Lace, Ruffled Queen, California Dark Plum, Sea Shell, Sir Lancelot, Robin Hood and Many others.

SPECIAL FOR COLLECTORS -- Rooted clusters or good 2" plants for growing on of many newer varieties at very reasonable prices.

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Editor

GREETINGS OF THE SEASON

from our House to Yours
NEWEST VARIETIES IN
AFRICAN VIOLETS

HELEN POCHUREK

Arthur Road

Solon, Ohio

Just 20 Miles from downtown Cleveland

CYCLAMEN MITE?

Cont. from Page 13

home. This rotenone spray is harmless when in contact with people externally and will not stain the porcelain of the tub. When emptying out the solution in pail, pour through heavy cloth bag to catch residue of soil and the rest can be poured down drain.

The following is a good program to set up for the home grower.

1. Segregate all new plants from outside sources no matter whether you know they have been treated or not. Then spray as a preventive in usual way.
2. Do not dip plants unless they show signs of mite.
3. Keep a wary eye out for first signs of mite. Segregate those plants and treat your entire stock, (using the "dip in" the first time.) Do not wait to see what happens. Then it may be too late. If taken in time, mite is comparatively easy to cure. Advanced stages can be cured but it takes time and patience. Throw out (burn) badly infected plants.

CAUTION: After dipping plants, surface water all plants for about a month. This is particularly true of automatically watered plants such as wick watered or constant water-level. If watered from bottom, the action of water is upward. This keeps insecticide about root system, forms a harmful gas and a large plant can go in a few days in this way even though they might not have been mite infested. By watering from top the excess insecticide is leached out.

4. Adopt a regular preventive spray program. Spray three times at weekly intervals. Rest three weeks and repeat. You will then be sure of selling disease free plants.
5. Sterilize all soil and pots.
6. Work on plants with clean hands. Mites may be brought in on hands from work in garden. Do not poke around foliage of plants with hands. This is the best way of carrying mite if you do not already have it.

In bad cases of mite, the entire center crown of plant goes with several suckers coming up to replace it. Pick the huskiest sucker and the one nearest center crown, training plant to this new crown, pinching out all others.

During period of convalescence, do not over water. Keep slightly on dry side, giving only what water poor roots and small top growth can consume. When active new growth starts, repot into fresh soil and a clean pot, using pot in keeping with "new" size of plant.

TESTING AFRICAN VIOLET SOILS

Cont. from Page 14

the soil and roll it in your fingers, attempting to make a ball of it about an inch in diameter. This ball must be crumbly, tending to break apart. If it is at all sticky, or can be flattened out like a ball of putty could be, the soil is not friable enough. In extreme cases, it was impossible to make a ball stay together at all, and in the majority of cases, the ball could not be placed on a flat surface and the hand withdrawn without the ball losing its shape, more or less. Try making a ball of wet sand. The soil should act practically the same way the sand does.

The tests for porosity and moisture retentivity were combined. They were the least satisfactory tests of the lot, particularly the porosity test. The idea was to fill a four inch pot with soil and to pour a measured amount of water through it. The length of time it takes the water to go through is an indication (not a measure) of the porosity, and the amount of water held by the soil, which is the difference between the water poured in and the water that comes out, is an indication of the moisture retentivity. The pot used was a standard four inch porous clay pot. It was soaked in water for an hour and then allowed to dry for half an hour minimum, to eliminate any moisture absorption by the pot. The soil, in a bone dry condition, was measured out in the pot, and then dumped into a pail where 4 tablespoons of water was added, and thoroughly mixed with the soil. It had been found that most soils in a bone dry condition are more or less moisture repellent, refusing to take up water easily, and this varying characteristic produced erratic results. The pot was then filled with the moist soil in the normal fashion, charcoal drainage being provided in the bottom of the pot. A half inch (more or less) space was left at the top of the pot. It was then placed on a grill (the writer used his wife's kitchen broiler grill) and a pan was placed under the grill to catch the water as it came through the pot. Extreme care was used not to pack the soil; just a slight firming at the top was made to even off the surface of the soil. Two cups of water were carefully measured out.

At a given time, measured with a watch, a start was made at pouring the water from the cups into the pot. The half inch of space at the top of the pot was kept continually filled with water. It was found that the force of falling water was liable to dig a hole in the soil, so a spoon was held on top of the soil, receiving the water to stop the force and introduce the water gently. Finally, all the two cups of water is poured into the pot, and the level of the water above the soil begins to go down. When all the free surface water has disappeared from the lowest visible point of surface of the soil, the watch is again read, and the difference in the times is considered the length of time it takes two cups

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PITMAN, N. J.

of water to enter the soil. On the ten samples tested, this time varied from a minimum of 2 minutes 30 seconds to a maximum of 5 minutes 50 seconds, with an average of 4 minutes 28 seconds. The conclusion -- insofar as a conclusion can be reached from ten samples -- is that soils which permit two cups of water to enter a four inch pot in from two and a half minutes to six minutes are probably satisfactory from a porosity point of view. One sample, purchased in a Ten Cent Store, required nineteen minutes for the two cups of water to disappear. Inspection disclosed that this was a fine grained, heavy packing soil, and the conclusion seemed justified that this soil was not porous enough to be satisfactory.

For the moisture absorption test, the water which ran through the pot and collected in the pan underneath it is again poured over the soil, making twice that the water goes through the soil. As it drips through the second time, it is again caught in the pan, and the pot is left over the pan until it ceases to drip. By that time, the soil has taken up absolutely all the moisture it will hold. The water in the pan is then measured. One cupful is measured out, the remainder is then measured out a tablespoon at a time. The difference between the amount measured and two cupsful plus the four tablespoonsful originally used to moisten the soil is the amount absorbed. (Sixteen tablespoons make one cup). In the ten soils tested, this amount varied from 9½ tablespoons to 16 tablespoons. The average was about 13, pretty close to ¾ of a cup. The indication from this limited number of tests, then, is that

if a four inch pot of soil will absorb not less than a half a cup of water, and not more than one cup, it is probably satisfactory from a moisture absorption point of view. One cupful appears to be about the extreme upper limit. As a check on this, a soil was mixed up which, from past experience, was known to be too moisture absorbent. This consisted of one third woods dirt, one third peat moss, and one third vermiculite. A four inch pot full of this soil absorbed 19 tablespoons of water, or a little less than 1¼ cups. It should be borne in mind that a soil which absorbs too much water is probably worse than one that absorbs too little.

The chemical reaction of the soil, its pH is easiest obtained by sending a sample of the soil to an agricultural school or college. In practically every state, there are institutions where this test will be made free of charge. Generally, about a cup of the soil is required for the test, and it is advisable to explain that only the pH test is desired, as sometimes they come back with a complete analysis. However, there are home testing soil kits on the market with which most any one can make the test with sufficient accuracy for the purpose. The ten soils tested were practically all of them slightly on the acid side, only one getting up to the neutral pH 7 point. The range was from 6.0 to 7.0, with the average about 6.4. However, it is well known that violets can be grown in alkaline soils up to 7.5. So it is fair to conclude that satisfactory soils can have chemical reactions varying from pH 6.0 to pH 7.5.

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The Finest and Latest in Saintpaulias—accent on Quality

Summarizing our attempts to put teeth into the fundamental requirements of an African violet soil, we find that we have come up with some fairly definite ideas. Some good African violet soils have the characteristics listed below:

HUMUS —

At least a third of their composition is humus.

FRIABILITY —

A ball made out of the moist soil is extremely crumbly, and shows no indication whatever of stickiness or plasticity.

POROSITY —

When two cupsful of water are poured into a four inch pot of the soil the water sinks below the top of the soil in not less than two and a half minutes, and in not more than six minutes.

MOISTURE RETENTIVITY —

A four inch pot of soil, when fully packed with water, will contain not less than half a cup nor more than one cup of water.

CHEMICAL REACTION —

The pH of the soil is between 6.0 and 7.5.

The author wishes to call the readers attention very carefully to the fact that he has not said that an African violet soil **MUST** have the above characteristics. The African violet takes the keenest delight in making a liar out of any person who lays down any sort of rigid rules for its culture. There is no doubt whatever that there are numerous soils in successful use today whose characteristics fall well outside of the above listed limits.

On the other hand, it is quite possible that some soils with the qualities listed will not work out satisfactorily. There are at least three reasons for this. In the first place, no consideration has been given to the nutrient or fertilizing qualities of the soil. It is considered that this is a separate problem, and that the soil is simply a base upon which a fertilizing program can be built. In the second place, soil is only one factor in the general violet growing technique, and either the soil must be adjusted to the technique, or the technique must be adjusted to the soil. It is entirely possible that a soil which is perfectly satisfactory for one grower will be entirely unsuitable for another. There is no "best" soil. And in the third place, a violet is, on occasion, a whimsical plant and can decide that one soil is good and another bad for no apparent external reason.

But when the qualifications are all made, and after the hedging is done, it is believed that the scheme outlined in this article is of value as a guide and help, and that some of its ideas may enable a person to more intelligently make up a new soil or modify an old one without the feeling that she is doing it blindly and without aim. Some of the old timers may recognize it as putting in a different form and a more awkward way some of the things that have become nearly instinctive with them through long experience. At least that is the author's hope.



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Dorothy Felgar, Texas

It is a common Texas brag that we have the biggest of everything, and especially in the growing of Saintpaulias we can't back down, for we surely have some of the biggest troubles to surmount. Our hot summers with a steady dry wind make humidity just a word; our extreme variance

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Sharon, Pennsylvania

in temperature is discouraging -- during the winter a "norther" can arrive with little warning and drop temperatures from 80 degrees to freezing within four hours. This makes it difficult to maintain even temperatures.

We recently built a "contemporary" style home with a glass wall overlooking lovely hills (yes, we have hills in Texas) so that my plants get enough light. We planned display space for my collection by lining the whole east wall of the living room with bookcases at window height, and there my four inch pots are admired. It is necessary to keep smaller plants on wheeled tables so that they can be moved to avoid hot glare. All four inch pots are kept on saucers with moist chick grits, and chick feeders with moist grits hold the smaller ones.

The combination of Siamese cats and little boys frequently give me leaves to start, and I get my best success in putting them in a half and half mixture of peat moss and vermiculite, then lifting them with a teaspoon when plantlets are about an inch high and placing them in two inch pots half filled with regular potting mixture. These are placed in battery jars or aquariums. After the parent leaf is cut, I add a little potting soil as top dressing. Fortunately, our hillside is an undisturbed wooded area, so I use three parts of this combined topsoil and oak leafmold, baked an hour at 300, and one part vermiculite and sand.

Plants must be watered daily, twice daily in the summer. (Austin is just east of the Edwards fault, and growers living near the Gulf would have a different watering schedule). The summer of 1951 we had no rain from June 11th to Sept. 16th, and the exceedingly dry atmosphere caused many of my most cherished varieties to literally melt away. I am able to save enough rain water for the wickfeds, and I water from either top or bottom, using a rubber battery filler.

As for the merits of single crown plants as compared with multiple crown plants, I feel it is largely a matter of space. Of course many varieties bloom better as a single crown but a three crown Blue 32, with the crowns planted back to back, is surely fine to see.

Varieties are difficult to come by as few florists stock them here. The biggest help originators of new varieties can give those of us who live far away from other enthusiasts would be detailed descriptions of their plants. Those of you who live near growers must consider yourselves fortunate indeed! The African Violet Magazine is eagerly awaited and well read, and is a great help.

Yes, here is one more Texas brag -- we do have big difficulties to overcome in successful African violet growing, but we get such big satisfaction from growing lovely plants.

DOIN' THINGS IN A BIG WAY

Delores Weise, O.

Our big moment had arrived when Mrs. Harry Moeller Sr., president, supervised the opening of the Queen City African Violet Show. Mrs. James Asmann, show chairman, and Mrs. Robert Gregg, staging chairman, cut the ribbons, with our giant scissors.

This was the third show sponsored by the club, and it was again held at the Cincinnati Gas and Electric Company, Fourth and Main Streets, in Cincinnati, Ohio, March 18th through the 20th, 1952.

The record breaking crowd was charmed with the atmosphere created by the slogan of the show, which was, "African Violets both Old and New for 1952." The Old was represented by an Antique Rolled Top Trunk, lined with a quaint white and violet designed quilt from grandmothers day. The trunk was open, and filled to overflowing with an arrangement of potted violets of all colors. These plants were furnished by Mr. Henry Peterson, of the J. A. Peterson and Son Co., of Cincinnati, Ohio.

The New -- a lovely table display of violets grown under fluorescent lighting by Mr. Ell from Ell's Farms, Sharonville, Ohio. Reed Shuster's arrangements of violets in Old and New containers were very unusual, such as, old pewter easter egg, salt box, tureen, scale, spittoon, wire giraffe, candy jar, and others--

The club members furnished 350 plants which were displayed in the center lobby, on grass covered tables, and classified by the entry committee. The side tables squaring off the center display, contained groups of violets devoted to the exhibits which were: Research -- Yellow Brown Girl on display, where many spectators congregated to ask questions which were numerous, and answered by our members; The Clinic -- which included surgical ward -- plants that needed the knife, convalescent -- those that are re-rooting, Nutritional -- plant feeding; Maternity Ward -- incubator seedlings, mother plant with baby, and all propagation methods.

This year the window display consisted of table settings using African violets as center pieces. The back ground of the window had latticed work shelving which faced the lobby, and held the special displays of 60 to 80 plants of Mrs. Arthur Radtke's, and Mrs. J. Landaker's exhibits.

There were special tables for Club arrangements Classes, and Nat'l Awards exhibit. These classes included, Holiday Mood -- United Nations -- Antique Shop -- Pocket Edition -- Baby's Layette.

Our gracious hostesses greeted many out of town guests, and were ready to sign up any new members. They also passed out bulletins on how to grow and care for African violets, and were ready to answer any questions they could.

The awards were made by Mrs. Z. C. Layson, Maysville, Ky., Mrs. Bess Hardy, Dayton, Ohio, Mrs. H. J. Sweeney, Xenia, Ohio -- authorities on African violets who did a very capable job of judging the various plants. Classified arrangements were judged by Mrs. Paul Smyth, and Mrs. Ethel Bahmann of Cincinnati, Ohio.

The National Awards Winners were -- Mrs. James Benson, First; Mrs. Daniel Ehlmen, Second Prize; Sweepstakes -- Mrs. Clara Schwartz; Special Award to Mrs. Archie Cooper, for her Sea Girl, which was truly an outstanding plant and admired by many spectators for its size.

Many ribbons were given to club members which proves violets can become hobbies to many and pay dividends by getting awards.

A press breakfast the opening day of the show, was arranged by the publicity committee. Guests were the garden editors of the news papers. The breakfast was most successful and provided an opportunity for members to become better acquainted with the members of the press. All suburban and community news papers publicized the show, and mention was made on several radio and television programs. Over 30 posters were distributed in various suburban shops. In all, this co-operation of all members, and the public helped to make our show a tremendous success.

Mrs. James Asmann, general chairman, and her entire committee are to be congratulated, and we are grateful for all members who helped Cincinnati see, and know, more about violets.

PETRICK LAZY SUSAN STANDS

Superb Christmas Gift
For African Violet Lovers
STURDY ★ SPACIOUS
★ ATTRACTIVE ★
Each Shelf Rotates
Write For Our Folder

PETRICK BROTHERS, INC.

1938 N. Springfield

Chicago 47, Illinois

AFRICAN VIOLET CULTURE IN FLORIDA

Sally Fricks, Fla.

To those of us who love the Saintpaulia, one of the most delightful of all experiences is to visit a grower. I am no exception, and my visit today not only gave me delight but I learned so much that was new to me, I felt you would want to hear about it.

My husband and I were greeted by our smiling, charming hostess, Mrs. Paul Denington of 2315 22nd Street, South St. Petersburg. She directed us to the yard and there was a tiny fragment of African Violet Heaven. Housed in a small building, formerly a tool house, there was one of the finest displays of violets I have ever seen. Blooms ran the entire gamut of colors from snowy whites to deepest blues. Large glowing flowers standing forth from healthy greens of foliage. Hundreds upon hundreds in a space not more than 10 x 6 feet. The walls of this building are constructed of celo-glass panels which may be opened for air. Mrs. Denington has arranged the pots in cinders which are kept moist. There are two levels of plants, with babies on ground level and forced with neon lights suspended above them. Now I realize that so far nothing new has been told you about culture, but hold your hats, girls . . . here we go!

First, here is Mrs. Denington's soil mixture . . . 2 parts of Peat Humus, (Not Peat Moss) . . . 1 part cow manure . . . (Pure Cow Manure thoroughly rotted) . . . and 1 part leaf mold.

This is a richer mixture than I have ever heard of, and Mrs. Denington's assurance that every

part of this mixture must be used, and the mixture should be carefully blended, plus the magnificent show of color on her plants speaks for itself.

Mrs. Denington sprays her entire collection with a hose, equipped with a mist sprayer, once in the morning and once in the evening every day in the summer. She does not advise you to do this, but if you wish, a fine mist spray once a day in summer will not harm your plants. Choose the hottest part of the day! To go back to Mrs. Denington's methods, every warm day in winter, the plants are sprayed at the noontide or warmest daylight hours. When I recovered from this shock she explained that she wets the outside of the building and the Sand Floor at least twice a day also. The temperature is kept between 70 and 80 degrees! In short, these marvelous plants owe much to Mrs. Denington's carefully maintained humidity.

Mrs. Denington uses Parathion, a deadly poison used on citrus trees. She sprays all her plants and not one is bothered by insect pests. However, she begs me to impress you with the fact that this is a deadly poison. Do not spray with it inside a house or without a mask over your face. Protect your hands and arms from spillage, as this poison causes painful burns. Mrs. Denington feeds her African violets from tiny plants using Hyponex first feeding and a tea made of pure cow manure and water. This feeding continues to blooming stage and flowers are extra ordinarily large as a result. There is a dug well on Mrs. Denington's property and that is the water she uses. However, she thinks that rain water would do as good a job. Most of us will not have the number of plants she has and it will not be difficult to accumulate rain water enough for the purpose. Those of you who live in the Far South will have success if you follow Mrs. Denington's methods. She starts all leaves in peat humus and they grow excellently. Mr. Paul Denington helps with the plants and is experimenting right now with breeding. I saw many fat seed pods on plants literally swarming with flowers. It will be interesting to see if and what new violet may result from these pods.

Mrs. Denington's entire home is delightful with color, not only from African violets but also from her beautiful blooming cacti. The yard is highlighted by a large pool, covered with water hyacinths in full bloom and many varieties of water lilies. When you take your next trip south, route through St. Petersburg, and visit this unique collection. Mrs. Denington will appreciate your interest and you will see one of the most beautiful displays of color on your favorite plants you've ever seen.

MERRY CHRISTMAS WITH
THE SEASON'S BEST WISHES
TO ONE AND ALL

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATRONAGE DURING THE PAST YEAR. MAY THE NEW YEAR BE A PROSPEROUS INTERESTING ONE TO YOU AND YOUR AFRICAN VIOLET FAMILY.

MARY MEEDS
THE SELECT VIOLET HOUSE

2023 Belmont Avenue

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Route 90, North of Youngstown, Ohio

WELCOME TO THE GREENHOUSE 9 AM TO 5 PM
PHONE 3-9567

ALL FOR A VIOLET

Cont. from Page 25

with the car," and that's just what we did. Let me tell you I can't say enough about the kindness of the De Haven's. We put the cartons of plants all over their porch, and Mrs. De Haven got out her watering can and after I had admired her plants which were beautiful we got to work and watered mine. We had a lovely room and a bath and felt much better. The night was another scorcher, the hottest they had had in years we were told -- and the next morning we got the news on the motor. It was ruined. We called the dealer where we had bought the car and he told us to sit tight and he would send a tow car for us. About 1:30 the wrecker arrived and after the driver had eaten his lunch we put the violets in De Haven's station wagon again and took them over to the garage where we put them in our station wagon for the trip home. This time we put the cartons between the seats to keep them from shifting, for, of course, they had to hoist the front wheels off the ground. The driver told us that we could either sit with him in the wrecker or sit in the front seat of our car. We looked at each other and with a grin we climbed up to our elevated perch while the driver assured us that either way it would be a rough trip, and what an understatement that was!

Of all the gifts that are ours we have valued most highly our sense of humour -- and it didn't desert us now. There we sat with the sun blazing through the upturned windshield with the car vibrating and us shaking both from the car's motion and laughter. The calmest things in the car were the violets. They had been packed so well that they never moved. Once in a while the driver of the wrecker would look back through the rear window of his cab -- to see if we were still there, I suppose -- and once he stopped the car and came back and spoke to us to reassure himself that we were still conscious. At 4:10 p. m. on Friday, just 24 hours later than we thought, we arrived at the dealer's where we bought the car. Again the violets were removed from the station wagon and this time they were put in a beautiful new Dodge Sedan and we were driven home.

We carried the plants out to our breezeway where we put them out on tables and would you believe it not even a leaf of the beautiful Marine Amazons was injured.

Did I hear you say "Would you do it again?"

When I look at Pink Cheer enthroned on my flower stand and see all the new doubles and other new varieties sitting so placidly on the porch my answer is "Yes!"

To be sure we still don't have the station wagon back, as they had to get us a new motor.

Let it never be said of us that we didn't give our "All" for a violet!

NASHVILLE CONVENTION

APRIL 30, MAY 1 AND 2, 1953.

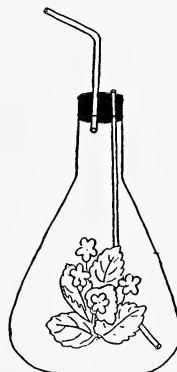
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NEW

NO DRIP VIOLET WATERER

Will not drip and spot Leaves is handy to use watering or treating plants with Sodium Selenate or Liquid Plant Food.



Capacity 1 Quart
Violet Painted Design
Order from

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Price \$2.50

"Orders Received After Dec. 15
Cannot Be Guaranteed for Xmas
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AFRICAN VIOLETS FOR THE PACIFIC COAST REGION

Leafmold 2 qts. 75¢

African Violet Book 50¢

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**A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON TO
EACH AND EVERYONE OF YOU**

Good Growing

SOLANGE SLIVKA

Fayette, Ohio
LIST ON REQUEST

SAINTPAULIA BECOMES MODERN MISSIONARY

Cont. from Page 26

Our "Staging Committee" made an attractive setting with the church tables covered in white plastic material which was waterproof and a fine background. The tables were set so that the crowd moved in a continuous circuit of the show ending up at the commercial displays.

Both afternoon and evening a short program was carried out. Mrs. Coniber gave us a brief history of the Saintpaulia touching on its discovery, transmigration from Africa and its present status as the most popular home abiding plant of the century. It fits so beautifully into today's smaller homes -- displacing the palms, Boston ferns and rubber plants of another era, with the addition of such beauty of color.

Miss Angela DePalma of Churchville accompanied by Mrs. C. E. Olmstead added a lovely touch in song to a beautiful picture. Violet celebri-

ties were introduced, including Floyd Johnson, president of the African Violet Society of America, Mrs. Robert Slocomb, president of the Rochester Society and others.

Mrs. Ricketson made a splendid "entry book" and was in charge of that department with a large committee so that the job could be done quickly to give the judges ample time for their work. Our judges were Mrs. Coniber of Batavia, William Gent of Webster and Henry Ten Hagen of Warsaw, New York.

September 26th dawned bright and clear an ideal day for the event. With the best of plans one can never be sure they will work. A table gives away or a judge forgets his date (none of the ones mentioned).

Our biggest failure was in our time set up -- for our public was so eager that they stormed our citadel an hour before the appointed time. Some who came in the afternoon hurried home to bring another load in the evening. Two cars came from St. Catharines, Ontario.



NEW PLANT STAND

- All steel welded. Especially Nice for African Violets.
- Presented First Time at National African Violet Convention, Hotel Sherman, Chicago.
- Will Not Tip or Tilt!
- Holds 11 plants, 10 on revolving arms.

Attractive and sturdy heavy gauge steel with green or white enamel finish. Easily dismantled for cleaning. Ten revolving arms tapering from 6 to 12 inches, allowing easy positioning of plants. Permits air and sun exposure from top to bottom. Convenient 40-inch height . . . suitable for plants of all kinds.

ONLY **\$15** POSTPAID

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Please send ☐ green
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for which I enclose
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for \$ _____

Name _____
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And so Saintpaulia became the Modern Missionary. We had 483 sign our guest book showing addresses from most of Western New York.

Mrs. Nellie Norton of Spencerport was the winner of the title "Queen of Show." She exhibited a perfectly gorgeous "Red King" with a leaf spread of about 16" and covered with a mass of beautiful blooms. It was about as perfect an African violet as one would ever see. And our "Runner Up" was so close that the judges consented to having both plants set apart together in a place of honor. It was a "du Pont Lavender Pink" grown by Mrs. A. H. Ricketson of North Chili, who won the "Sweepstakes" also as 12 of her 17 plants took blue ribbons.

In the arrangements division one was in for a treat. Such originality and imagination! A black milk glass table setting with frosty "Snow Prince" center piece. Violets set in shells and driftwood. There were 30 in all and everyone outstanding -- The Tri-color went to an arrangement depicting the nursery rhyme, "Mary, Mary Quite Contrary" and sure enough "there were the cockle shells, the silver bells and the pretty maids all in a row."

This was the work of Mrs. Joseph Sumter the Pastor's wife.

The reaction to the Show was electric! What a wonderful medium to use for raising Missionary funds! It was beautiful, educational, sociable and netted the Missionary Society \$425.00 to be used to help in the work for hospital supplies, building new schools in Alaska, the Cameroon in Africa and Iran.

Every one is talking about a repeat performance for this year. Already we hear about a Show to be used by the Batavia Y. W. C. A. in raising funds.

A neighboring African Violet Society brought small plants, sold them for us and turned the money over to us. What a fine spirit of cooperation. Most of all isn't it wonderful to use our hobbies in helping others? Why not the African violet in the work of the Lord? It is certainly one of God's most beautiful creations.

Your National President was so favorably impressed at our efforts that it is thru his urging I have told you our story.



Here's proof that YOU can grow PRIZE WINNING AFRICAN VIOLETS



Mrs. Delphine Hotchkiss, 110 High Point Road, Peoria, Ill., exhibits the superb specimens which won 6 of the higher awards in the 1952 National Convention of the African Violet Society.

Here's how Delphine Hotchkiss took 6 top prizes:

"I follow two important rules in lighting and feedings, says Mrs. Hotchkiss: I use fluorescent lighting and liquid plant food. I've tried more than one liquid plant food and have found that PLANT MARVEL gives me the best blooms. If you want larger, more abundant blossoms on your African violets, I recommend PLANT MARVEL. It gives my plants the necessary 'oomph' to come into full bloom with

giant size blossoms and to continue blooming all the year around."

PLANT MARVEL is a 100% soluble, scientifically-balanced food for all plants and particularly for African violet rootlets which absorb it instantly.

FREE: The full story of how Mrs. Hotchkiss grows prize winning African violets. Write



Ask your local florist or garden supply shop, or send \$1.25 for enough to make 250 gallons!

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Surface feeding means surface roots



Local feeding -- note scalded roots



Plant Marvel feeds the entire root system

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OUR CHAPTER CHAIRMAN



Mrs. Magill

ation or problem that may arise in your Chapter.

Here she is, fellow members! One of our Veeps (Vice Presidents) and Chairman of our Affiliated Chapters, Mrs. E. G. (Ada) Magill. We are happy to present her to all of you in this way, because she is ever ready to help whenever the need arises for counsel and guidance in connection with any special situation or problem that may arise in your Chapter.

All who attended the Sixth Annual Convention in Chicago will remember Mrs. Magill for the splendid part she played in the Convention as Chairman of the Program Committee. Her address is:

Mrs. E. G. Magill,
707 South Fourth Street,
Aurora, Illinois

AFFILIATED CHAPTERS PLEASE CONTACT MRS. MAGILL FOR INFORMATION. — Editor

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SODIUM SELENATE IN CAPSULES

A new and thoroughly reliable method for the control of Mite, Mealy Bug, Cyclamen Mite, Red Spider, Aphids and pests that attack African violets. Sodium Selenate is a poisonous material which when absorbed by the plant, kills the insect.

SAFE, RELIABLE. 18 CAPSULES \$1.25 post paid.

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ROOT AND CROWN ROT

Cont. from Page 20

paves the way for the other and enables it to become a secondary invader.

In another part of the leaf project cuttings were also rooted in vermiculite and then transplanted to soil in three inch pots and then inoculated with the different kinds of fungi that had shown some evidence of pathogenicity. Each particular kind of fungus was inoculated into the soil of five pots. In excess of two hundred plants are employed for this purpose in order to get as much data as possible.

The fungi that were inoculated into the soil of these pots were first grown on sterilized oats. After the fungus shows good growth on these oats a few oats are taken from the dish and pushed down into the soil in the pot, near the roots of the young plant. This enables the fungus to invade the root tissues as it normally does if it is pathogenic for the plant.

At present the part of the problem being worked includes bringing nematodes into contact with the plant roots by mixing through the soil in the pot, soil that contains eggs and larvae of a particular species of nematode. The soil in the pot has, at the same time, inserted into it, oats containing a fungus that has been selected because, alone, it has no effect on the roots or crown of the violet. If by itself a fungus repeatedly cannot invade African violet tissue, but if in conjunction with a nematode it can, it may be concluded that the nematode is necessary to enable the fungus to invade.

Another set of plants are to be used for a trial of the various bacteria that are known to cause plant diseases. Since bacteria are concerned with several plant diseases they must be considered. They are believed to be plants and closely related to the fungi. A few virus inoculations have been made on the African violet but have shown no results. Several one-celled animals have been found on the plants but appear to be living on the already dead tissues.

PINK CHEER

ONE OF THE MOST OUTSTANDING INTRODUCTIONS OF 1952

Is undisputedly the deepest pink African violet today. A Blue Ribbon winner at the 1952 Annual Convention, this variety was introduced and registered by us.

We are accepting orders for Pink Cheer for April delivery at only \$1.00 each plus 50¢ for packing and postage. All plants are well budded and are guaranteed to arrive in good condition.

JOHN R. GENT & SON

SAINTPAULIA SPECIALISTS

WEBSTER, NEW YORK

GROWING FOR PLEASURE AND SUCCESS

Cont. from Page 17

Mrs. Broome says she believes plants bloom slightly better on the porch than in the house.

"Get Good Start"

"What's the important thing about African Violet growing?"

"Get a good start," Mrs. Broome answers quickly. Having made a poor start herself, she knows its value. First really impressed with African violets over three years ago at the home of Mrs. J. A. Wiley in Red Bank, Mrs. Broome, whose gardening had been curtailed by an illness, decided to make a hobby of them. A brave start of plants sickened under an attack of Cyclamen mite, from infested stock, and had to be destroyed.

A good start starts with proper potting, according to Mrs. Broome, and leaf mold is the main ingredient used. This she collects from the floor of a hardwood forest, sterilizes it by baking the dampened material, one old bread panful at a time, in the oven, one hour at 225 degrees. To a gallon of this two cups of terralite are added.

Four-inch short clay pots get a good layer of limestone chips, for drainage and lime, plus a piece or two of charcoal. The mixture of leaf-mold-and-terralite, to which one tablespoon of soil conditioner is added for each pot, fills the pot, is sifted gently around the roots of the plant. This is not firmed in place, but tooth picks are used to brace the plant if the crown seems wobbly.

The pot is now placed in a pan of warm water, containing a liquid fertilizer, one teaspoon to the gallon. As soon as the soil is thoroughly moistened, the pot is removed. Feeding with this same liquid fertilizer solution then follows every ten

days until the plant begins to bloom. After that feeding is limited to once a month.

Skillful Watering

Like many growers Mrs. Broome waters from below, that is, she pours the water into the saucer in which the pot sits. Mrs. Broome also uses warm water. "Not lukewarm, not hot, but warm to the touch." She does not water until the soil becomes somewhat dry on top. If it feels damp or looks damp (experience helps here) it is not watered.

"Some plants just seem to require more water than others, so some are watered more frequently. Also weather affects frequency. Plants must be watered more often in cold weather, when the air becomes dry in the house. Usually I water every other day in the winter, about twice a week in the summer."

Mrs. Broome likes to water in the midmorning, when she fills bowls of all plants needing water. After three or four hours she checks back, and water is poured out of any bowls still containing it.

In starting plants, Mrs. Broome uses probably the easiest method, that of putting the stem of a leaf in water (the leaf itself being suspended above). When roots and small plants form, she plants the cluster, leaf and all, in a mixture of one part sand, three parts peat moss. As soon as the plants are big enough to handle easily they are planted as outlined above, usually directly into four-inch pots which will serve them nicely for at least two years. Feeding of the plants with liquid fertilizer while they are in the peat and sand mixture is the same as for the other plants.

Mrs. Broome has about 150 varieties, and like many a fan would like to own every new kind that comes out. She has at least 200 large blooming plants, unnumbered ones in the "infant" and not-yet-potted class. Most of her plants are in four-inch clay African violet pots, each sitting in a separate small bowl.

Don't be led to believe, however, that it is the kind of pot, or even the kind of potting soil which brings success to her. She also has many plant in bread pans, undrained saucers and bowls, glazed planters, in a glass fruit juicer, and even in a mixture with ferns in an old aquarium. She has one fine specimen of "Blushing Maiden" in full bloom growing in nothing but water, in which it has been for a year. Three large blooming plants share a bowl where they have been growing in the peat and sand mixture for 18 months.

There's much more I could write about Mrs. Broome, her favorite varieties, methods and the like, but space forbids. Many other growers use the same fertilizer, soil mixture, etc. I believe "a good start," with porous soil, skillful watering, feeding and attention as needed, is the "secret" of her success. Most of us alternate too little with too much care.

PLANTSMITHS
SPOONIT

The CAN'T-BE-BEAT-FOOD
For African Violets

Send post card for information about my
generous trial offer.

PLANTSMITH
Box 818A Palo Alto, Calif.

NO SO CALLED "GREEN THUMB" NEEDED TO GROW SAINTPAULIA

Cont. from Page 27

carefully push the powdered stem of the leaf into the hole. Firm the vermiculite with the fingers, set in a north window and wait until leaves or small plants appear. Never keep the vermiculite wet, just moist.

When the young plants are nearly 1 inch high, transplant into two inch pots, using unfertilized soil. If several little plants form from one leaf, you may divide at this time into separate pots. Otherwise divide them when you transplant the second time. This time use 3 inch pots and soil with added fertilizer.

Air your home once or twice a day by opening the front and rear doors for 15 minutes. Make a habit of weekly or bi-weekly spraying the rooms where your plants are with a couple squirts from an aerosol bug bomb that contains D. D. T. This will take care of most of the pests that have a way of sneaking in.

Last, but not least, a friendly last minute tip for you. If your plants are doing nicely and you are satisfied with them, don't begin to feed them just because someone else does so; use your own good judgment.

**PLEASE SEND NEW MEMBERSHIPS
AND RENEWALS TO THE
TREASURER**

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO OUR AFRICAN VIOLET FRIENDS

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LYKE'S
AFRICAN VIOLETS**

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OLD AND NEW VARIETIES, REASON-
ABLE PRICES WE ARE 500 FT. OFF
ROUTE 63 ON LEROY ROAD

WINDOVER AFRICAN VIOLET SOIL

A superior potting soil, sterilized with LARVACIDE. Contains hardwood leafmold, woodland top-soil, peat moss, crushed sandstone, woodashes, charcoal, bone meal and superphosphate. Postpaid east of Denver,
4 lbs. \$1.00, 9 lbs. \$2.00, 13 lbs. \$2.50.

AFRICAN VIOLET POTS

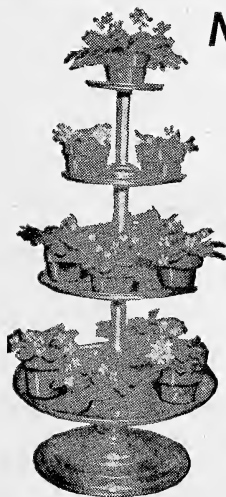
Squatty, red clay. Very porous. Best and most economical. Edges treated to help guard against stem rot or sloughing off of leaves. Postpaid east of Denver.

3 inch, 12-\$2.00; 4 inch, 10-\$2.00.

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New Revolving FLOWER TREES

FOR YOUR CHERISHED AFRICAN VIOLETS

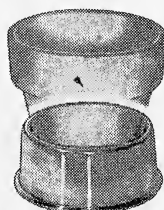
Made of lustrous rustproof spun aluminum. Each tray is waterproof and holds up to 1/2 inch of water. Plants can be watered the ideal way—from the bottom. No individual watering! This tree holds up to 18 four-inch African Violet flower pots, yet requires only 20-inch diameter floor space. Each tray rotates freely about center for even sunning of plants.

These Flower Trees are available in five heights.
36" high: 9" from floor to lower tray: 9" between trays. Each \$24.50
39" high: 12" from floor to lower tray: 9" between trays. Each \$25.25
42" high: 15" from floor to lower tray: 9" between trays. Each \$26.00
45" high: 18" from floor to lower tray: 9" between trays. Each \$26.75
48" high: 18" from floor to lower tray: 10" between trays. Each \$27.50

All trees are shipped assembled via express—prepaid.

Write for free circular on WOOD Flower Trees

OZARK SPUNALUM CO.
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NEW Spun Aluminum WICK-FED SAUCERS for the famous Ceramo AFRICAN VIOLET FLOWER POTS

Your African Violets can now be watered the ideal way—from the bottom—with these new saucers.

6 Saucers & Wicks for 3" pots.....\$4.50
6 Saucers & Wicks for 4" pots.....\$5.50
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CERAMO AFRICAN VIOLET FLOWER POTS

8 4" pots.....\$2.00
6 5" pots.....\$2.00
10 3" pots.....\$2.00

These famous Squatty Pots of dark red clay, with their excellent porosity, are used and recommended by Florists. Specially treated edges help prevent sloughing off of leaves.

REGULAR SPUN ALUMINUM SAUCERS
for 3", 4" or 5" pots...12 for \$4.65
Shipments sent ppd. Add 25¢ set postage W. of Rockies
We Will Replace All Broken Pots





Calling all MEN

Phil Libby, 1437 So. Wisconsin Ave., Racine Wisc.

When E. A. Thompson of Tennessee wrote the article "Calling All Men" in the June issue, I knew there would be some reaction among the men members of the Society. I, for one, was aroused, and after talking the matter over with several men I know who raise African violets, they persuaded me to edit a column, exclusively for men. Now we know you girls will peek at this column, but we must insist that you not send in contributions unless they were written by your husband and under his name.

Recently, while at one of the larger growers of African violets, Gloxinias, and Begonias, I was told that a great number of doctors and professional men in the Chicago area are hobbying violets. There are, among these men, any number who could write something about their hobby of

growing violets and we'd like to have them send them in for this column.

'Tis rumored that an exclusive local violet society for men only is to be started in Chicago. Anyone knowing more about this rumor would do us a big favor by sending us complete information on the club, so that we can pass it on to others who might be interested.

If you are interested in starting a round robin among men, let's get one started.

This first column will not be as interesting as we hope them to be in the near future. Your cooperation on sending in news, questions, answers, and short articles will keep it interesting. Please help make this column an outstanding one.

The writer, a rather busy individual, who gallops all over the country from time to time, still finds time to care for his original 40 odd varieties, plus propagation of any number of them all the time. Believe me, I like it. To give you an idea, I returned recently from California, and as my wife puts it. . . "I was hardly in the house before I was puttering with my babies." But I guess that is just the nature of the beast. . . I find those violet babies very important.

Anyone desiring to exchange leaves, should write me and I'll arrange for swaps between you. Please state whether they are rooted or not, and enclose a stamped envelope for reply.



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the **Miracle DRUG**

Causes wondrous plant mutations.

A simple scientific chemical means of creating new forms in flowers - all plants. Easy to use. Complete kit with instruction booklet.

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FLOWER HAVEN

African violets, other plants, newest varieties, shipping, home sales, leaves, rooted cuttings, small plants.

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COMMERCIAL MEMBER OF THE AFRICAN
VIOLET SOCIETY

Ruffled Queen, Geneva's Daughter, Suprita, Red Princess, Red Lady (girl leaf), Blue Delight Frilled, Double Fringed White, Double Rose, Royal Pink, Taffeta, Evening Sunset, Double Orchid, Rose Marie, Painted Girl, Benner's Seedlings.

PLANTS \$2.00 — LEAVES \$.50

BENNER'S VIOLET SHOPPE

617 THIRTY-NINTH STREET, ROCK ISLAND, ILL.
NEAR AUGUSTANA COLLEGE
Stamped envelope for list

'Twas The Night Before Show Day

'Twas the night before Show Day,
And all through the town--
Every Violet Club member,
Was wearing a frown.

The Violet Show Chairman
Is in the dog house,
While those who stood by her
Are still as a mouse.

The hall was all decorated
And plants placed with care,
With the hope that the judges,
Soon would be there.

But after it's over
And the show's a success,
We'll go back to our Violets,
And enjoy them I guess.

We have all worked quite madly
To get things in place,
To iron out all troubles
And keep up with the pace.

Do you think it was worth it?
I really can't say,
Just wait until next year--
We'll be naming the day.

Pearl Kent, Tecumseh, Nebraska

1953 - - CONVENTION

The 1953 Annual Meeting will be held in Nashville, Tennessee on April 30 and May 1, 2, 1953. FULL PARTICULARS will be in the March magazine.

CONVENTION SHOW AWARDS

Available are

THE SILVER CUP AWARD
HONORABLE MENTION RIBBON AWARDS
AWARD OF MERIT RIBBON AWARDS
POPULAR GARDENING SWEEPSTAKES AWARD
ALMA WRIGHT CASH AWARD

It is not too early to select your plants and to begin to groom them for display at the NASHVILLE SHOW!

Club NEWS

Maxine Wangberg, Club Editor
1920 W. 3rd. St.
Perry, Iowa.

FAIRBORN OHIO

The Twilight African Violet Club of Fairborn, Ohio was formed on June 13, 1952 and now has 11 members. Meetings are held the first Thursday of every month.

Officers elected are:

President,	Mrs. Gordon Hawk
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Royal Jackson
Secretary,	Mrs. Robert Esterline
Treasurer,	Mrs. B. F. Smith

YORK PENNSYLVANIA

The African Violet Society of York, Pennsylvania was organized in July, 1952 at the home of Mrs. Paul Frey with 11 members, all members of the National Society.

Temporary officers were elected for a period of 6 months and are as follows:

President,	Mrs. Philip Filing
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Paul Frey
Secretary,	Mrs. Robert Zuch
Treasurer,	Mrs. Harry Heindel
Sunshine Chrm.,	Mrs. Christine Yaw
Publicity Chrm.,	Mrs. Harold Fischer

BUCKEYE LAKE OHIO

The first meeting of the Buckeye Lake African Violet Society was held at the home of Mrs. Ethel Prescott on June 16, 1952. This is the first and only club in Buckeye Lake, Ohio.

Officers for 1952 are:

President,	Mrs. Ethel Prescott
1st Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Grace Baumunk
2nd Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Oneta Rayburn
Treasurer,	Mrs. Maude Elliott
Secretary,	Mrs. Mabel Hartman
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. Iva Beathard
Reporter,	Mrs. Bannie Gill

Meetings are held in the members homes and the membership is limited to twelve.

MASON CITY IOWA

The Mason City, Iowa African Violet Club held its first Show on May 16, in the Library Auditorium. Attendance for the afternoon and evening



Mason City African Violet Society

exhibit was 503, with visitors from many cities in Iowa and from as far away as New York City.

The many varieties exhibited by the members, ranging in color from the pastel shades to deeper reds and purples, were attractively arranged on tables circling the room.

The Mason City Club has been organized just 6 months and now has a membership of 42.

BORDER CITIES PROJECT

One project that has been a dream of the Border Cities African Violet Club since its organization, has at last come true.

Clyde Smith of the Gro-Quick Sales, generously donated 1,000 plants for this project. Mrs. Dorothy Gray, president and Mr. and Mrs. Ross Warner repotted the plants and with directions for their care, they were distributed to these organizations: Jewish Home for the Aged, Brooks Convalescent Center, Boulevard Hospital, Hague Home for the Aged, Eastern Star Home, Lutheran Charities for their Homes and Hospitals, Golden Wedding Club, Veterans Hospital of Dearborn, Michigan Memorial Hospital, and the Carmelite Sister's Home for the Aged.

In place of its regular meeting on July 14, the Border Cities African Violet Club held a picnic "Under the Stars". Members brought their families and supper was served family style on long tables spread with white tablecloths. Topics of conversation . . . violets, of course.

CLEVELAND OHIO

The second African Violet Club in greater Cleveland, Ohio, The Dubonnet Saintpaulia Society, was organized in January 1952 at the home of Mrs. Helen Meyette. Organization chairman was Mrs. Joseph Hodan, Ohio director. Meetings are held in the members' homes on the first Tuesday of each month.

The following officers were elected:

President,	Mrs. Paul S. Jasko
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Helen Meyette
Secretary,	Mrs. K. C. Thompson
Treasurer,	Mrs. Edward T. Hardulok

WASHINGTON D. C.

The Spring Show of the Metropolitan African Violet Club of Washington, D. C. was held in the Auditorium of the Hecht Company's new suburban store in Arlington, Va. on May 2 and 3.

The Show consisted of a display of over 300 plants; a collection of novelty arrangements; an educational exhibit by Dr. T. B. McKneely on methods of propagation, soil mixtures and fertilizers; and a Maypole display arrangement by Mrs. Martha Husted with girl leaved plants and dolls.

A leaflet on violet culture, compiled by the officers of the club, and on sale proved very popular.

Mrs. T. B. McKneely won first prize and best in the show with her DuPont Silver Pink Sport. Second prize went to Mrs. Hazel Lamar for her Rose Rainbow. Mrs. A. N. Carter won third place with Red King and, as per usual, the club sweep-stake.

The season's activities were climaxed in June with a talk by Mr. John Creech of Glendale, Md., Vice-President of the American Horticulture Society, who spoke on the advantages of sphagnum moss in both seed and plant culture, and showed slides taken at Glendale Experiment Station.

MILWAUKEE WISCONSIN

At the last meeting of the 1951-1952 year, the Milwaukee County African Violet Society celebrated their second anniversary. Mrs. Theodore Rosenak, President for the first two years, was presented with a past presidents pin and a gift. Under her leadership the society's membership increased from 16 to 125.

The following new officers were installed at the anniversary tea:

President,	Mrs. Marvin H. Luttrup
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. R. G. Birkholz
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. George Truran
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. Alvin Bromm
Mem. Secy.,	Mrs. Chris Bouvy
Treasurer,	Mrs. W. J. Lazynski

WISCONSIN FAIR

African violets were prominent at the Flower Show of the Wisconsin State Fair. This was the first time in the history of the Fair that African violets were included in the Flower Show.

There were two other Flower Shows scheduled. In the first show the Milwaukee County African Violet Society was very proud to have taken all the prizes. In the second show, Mrs. Dawson, Startevant, Wisconsin, won the first prize and the other four prizes were won by the Milwaukee County African Violet Society.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

SAY IT WITH AFRICAN VIOLETS.
FINE PLANTS \$1.25 TO \$2.25. 450
VARIETIES. WE DO NOT SHIP.

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HYDROPONIC Chemical Co., Inc. Copley, O.

AFRICAN VIOLETS

S. grotei, the climber and S. magungensis the creeper. S. tongwensis and S. ameniensis Species every lover of African violets should have. Healthy vigorous plants from 2 inch pots @ \$2.50 each. 50 cents extra if mailed via air.

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EDENA GARDENS

LEAVES PLANTS
PACIFIC REDWOOD -- One of Carolyn Rector's PRIZE WINNERS. Lovely cupped dark green leaves, red underneath. Blue violet flowers.
EASTER BONNET -- Dainty medium to light blue flowers, very attractive dark green girl foliage.
Leaves 50 cts. Plants \$2.00

Many other new varieties

E. H. THOMAS
461 Bridge Road Walnut Creek, Calif.



Seated, left to right: Mrs. George G. Swingle, president; Mrs. George P. Henson, secretary. Standing, left to right: Mrs. Elma H. Schurier, treasurer; Mrs. George A. Erickson, vice-president.

LINCOLN NEBRASKA

At the May meeting on Tuesday May 3rd at 7:30 o'clock, the Lincoln, Nebraska African Violet Society elected the following officers for the clubs second year beginning June 1st, 1952:

President,	Mrs. George Erickson
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. George Swingle
Secretary,	Mrs. George Henson
Treasurer,	Mrs. Elmer Schwier

SENECA CLUB

The Seneca African Violet Club was organized in June 1951 and hold their meetings in the members homes the third Tuesday evening of the month. There are 15 active and interested members.

Officers elected for the new year are:

President,	Mrs. Joe Olberding
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. August Ronnebaum
Secy.-Treas.,	Mrs. George Huerter

SEASON'S GREETINGS

from

THE VIOLET HOUSE

828 KENMORE BLVD.

AKRON 14, OHIO

SEND FOR NEW PRICE LIST

and

"SAY IT WITH VIOLETS"

E. PEARLE TURNER

A light lunch is served at the close of the meeting and once a year the group meets for a covered dish dinner.

BALTIMORE MARYLAND

On Wednesday evening May 21, 1952 a group of twelve African violet enthusiasts met at the home of Mrs. Hayden Gittings, Baltimore, Md. Tentative plans of monthly meetings, membership in the African Violet Society of America and monthly dues, to be contributed annually to a charitable cause, were discussed. This group, named the Baltimore African Violet Club comprises amateurs and experienced hobbyists.

LAWRENCE KANSAS

The Lawrence, Kansas African Violet Club was organized in 1951. Membership is limited to 25, and meetings are held in the members homes.

The following officers were elected:

President,	Mrs. N. K. Anderson
Secretary,	Mrs. Ralph Lawson
Treasurer,	Mrs. Marion Tuttle
Reporter,	Mrs. D. S. Woodward

On May 17th the first African Violet Show was held in the Lawrence Community Building in conjunction with the Lawrence Flower Club. One project for this club is for each member to root a leaf of Gorgeous Bicolor for exhibition on the Educational Table for the "Spring 1953 African Violet Exhibit.

CHICAGO ILLINOIS

The First African Violet Society of Chicago, Illinois elected the following officers for the year 1952-53:

President,	Mrs. Charlotte Hansen
1st Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Dorothy Szontagh
2nd Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Lenore Yates
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. Dorothy Halvorsen
Rec. Secy.,	Miss Alice Johnson
Treasurer,	Mrs. Elsie Nelson
Historian,	Mrs. Margaret Mueller

The first meeting of the new season was held on September 4th, with Mrs. Mary Fowkes showing colored slides of the 1952 Convention.

AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF GREATER PITTSBURGH

More than 3,000 African violet fans attended the third annual show of the African Violet Society of Greater Pittsburgh, held April 19th and 20th, 1952 at the Mellon Park Garden Center.

The theme "Violet Symphony," was directed by chairman Mrs. Avery Anderson. Staging was planned by Mrs. Charles Forstall, and Mrs. Albert Lash. Fifty-one members displayed 621 plants.

The newest varieties of African violets were displayed in symphonic beauty on a large tiered table. Another display featured violets in unusual and antique containers. Still another in woodland settings, using stumps, driftwood and branches.

Mrs. R. A. Booth won the sweepstakes award with 28 ribbons. The judges chose two "Best of Show" plants. Red King grown by Mrs. Harvey Birdseye and Double Rose and White grown by Mrs. David Cubbage.

The next large project the Society sponsors, will be the African violet annual house tour to be held October 22.

The newest varieties as well as old favorites will be displayed. Visitors will be able to see violets grown on a large scale by sunlight, and also under fluorescent lighting. Another feature will be ways of fitting violets into the home decor by use of proper containers, whether early American, traditional, or modern.

BELMONT ILLINOIS

The Sunrise African Violet Club of Belmont, Illinois was organized on January 7, 1952 at the home of Mrs. R. Houska in Downers Grove, Illinois with 7 members present. Membership has been limited to 16 with the meetings held in the homes on the first Wednesday of the month at 1:30 o'clock.

The following officers were elected:

President,	Mrs. B. Blackmore
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. R. Houska
Secretary,	Mrs. A. Besch
Treasurer,	Mrs. M. Webster
Program,	Mrs. V. Lauing

LOS ANGELES CALIFORNIA SOCIETY

On June 2nd, the Los Angeles African Violet Society entered its fifth year with Mrs. H. Holmes Harris taking office as president for the second year. In honor of the occasion tea and cakes were served, and a social hour was enjoyed by members. Mrs. Laura Crandall gave an interesting talk and demonstration on the art of making dried flower pictures. There was a beautiful display of African violets by the members.

Mrs. J. Ernest Mackey was the installing officer, and was accompanied at the piano by Mrs. Wm. Stone. Each officer was presented with a nosegay with streamers of rainbow ribbon joining each officer as they were installed, carrying out the theme of the rainbow of friendship.

Officers for the ensuing year are:

President,	Mrs. H. Holmes Harris
1st Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Ruth Townsend
2nd Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Clarice Waters
Treasurer,	Miss Margaret Garbutt
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. Gladys Gauger
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. Betty Cobb
Membership,	Mrs. Maud Gossman

SAN GABRIEL CHAPTER

The San Gabriel Valley Chapter of the African Violet Society of America, Inc. acted as host to the Los Angeles, Santa Monica, South Bay, San Pedro, Long Beach, Pasadena and La Verne Chapters at a pot luck luncheon at the last meeting of the year on June 11, at the Y. M. C. A. building, 605 E. Main Street, Alhambra, with Mrs. Allen A. Adams, president, presiding.

The tables were beautifully decorated with garlands of roses and places set for one hundred guests.

Mrs. Theodore Banks and Mrs. Walter Belter installed the following officers for the coming year:

President,	Mrs. J. Ernest Mackey
1st Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. William Stone
2nd Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Nelson Walters
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. Roscoe Kindrick
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. F. M. Bonnerville
Treasurer,	Mrs. Charles Langdale
Publicity Chrm.,	Mrs. M. H. A. Peterson

THE AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB OF GREATER KANSAS CITY

The African Violet Club of Greater Kansas City announces the dates for the 1953 African Violet Show, February 21st and 22nd, in the Little Theater of the Municipal Auditorium in Kansas City, Missouri. Mrs. Robert Montgomery is Show Chairman; Mr. and Mrs. Bill Mann are Assistant Show Chairmen.

The Annual election of officers was held at the September meeting. The following officers were elected:

President,	Mrs. T. M. Church
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Robert Montgomery
Treasurer,	Frank Morgan
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. Catherine Hoeft
Corres. Secy.,	Miss Elizabeth Harris
Historian,	Mrs. L. A. Smart

The meetings are held at 8 o'clock on the second Tuesday of the month, in the Paseo Room of the American Legion Building. A question and answer period will be a part of each program.

AUTOMATIC-WATERING PLANT GLASWICKS

4" wicks, 7/32" -A .08c, 7/32" -B .10c, 1/4" .12c, 3/8" .15c each. 7/32" wicks for 4" pots. Write for bulk prices.

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G-Q FIBERGLAS, for WICK FEEDING AERATING PADS and OTHER USES

Flower growers report amazing success when using this special G-Q Fiberglass for wicks, aerating pads, lining flower boxes, planting slips and starting plants in flats. Complete directions with each order.

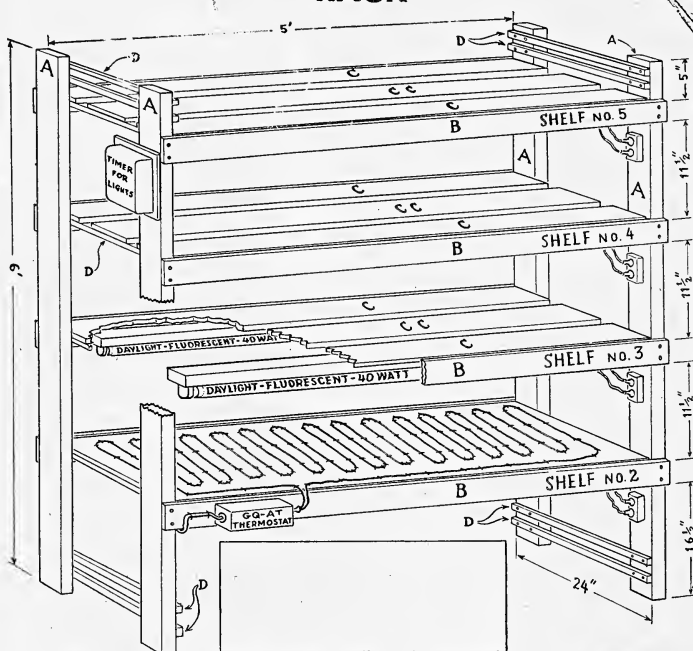
WICK FEEDING — For ordinary flower pots cut G-Q Fiberglass into strips. Push the moistened wick through the drainage hole in the pot and flatten out. Then place an aerating pad in the bottom of the pot and plant in your regular way.

The pot must be supported OVER the water, and the water level should not be above the bottom of the pot for more than a few hours.

The plants are fed water or plant food entirely by capillarity, which furnishes the right amount of moisture -- not too little -- not too much.

AERATING PADS — Cut G-Q Fiberglass in squares and place in the pot. Then plant in the regular way. When repotting, transplant Fiberglass and all. This prevents any injury to the fine, hair-like feeder roots and promotes faster more vigorous growth in the transplanted plant.

BUILD YOUR OWN G-Q AFRICAN VIOLET GROWING RACK



You can grow the finest plants, even in basement or dark rooms, with this scientifically designed rack, bottom heat, fluorescent lights and automatic heat control. It has a capacity of over 1,000 plants in 2" or 2 1/4" pots. Shelves 1 and 5 are adjustable.

We will furnish you complete plans, together with schematic wiring diagram and material list for \$1.00. We have built and operate a great many of these racks and can testify to their value in helping produce superior plants and blooms.

WRITE TODAY FOR

Catalog. Complete line of African violet supplies, heating cables, G-Q plant food, pots, feeders, glass wicks, pourers, vermiculite and many other supplies.

MAIL ORDER ONLY

WICK FEEDING FOR SEED FLATS — Strips of G-Q Fiberglass in the bottom of the flat, extending into a water pan beneath, afford a convenient, inexpensive method of wick feeding and watering, and saves seedlings from washing out.

LINING FLOWER BOXES — Proper root development requires air as well as food and water. G-Q Fiberglass used as lining on sides and bottom provides it.

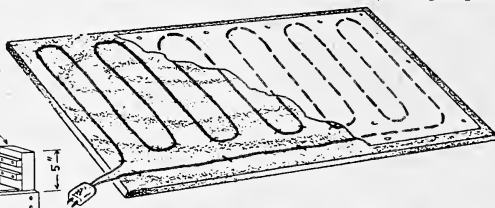
STARTING SLIPS AND CUTTINGS — Roll a couple layers of G-Q Fiberglass around the cutting. Plant with top at ground level. You'll be delighted with the high percentage of "take." When transplanting do not remove Fiberglass.

FOR SHIPPING — Plants started in G-Q Fiberglass may be shipped with minimum damage to feeder roots -- and consequently minimum setbacks. They also ship at minimum weight.

INEXPENSIVE --

30 ft. roll, 3" wide only \$1.00 postpaid
Makes 240 glass wicks or 120 aerating pads.

90 ft., 3" wide only \$2.75 postpaid



G-Q BOTTOM HEAT CABLES

Determine number of square feet to be heated and select cables you need. One thermostat will control several cables. Instructions with order.

A6	15 watts	1 1/2 sq. ft.	\$1.00
B12	30 "	3 "	1.80
M26	60 "	6 "	2.80
P40	100 "	9 "	2.80
J56	140 "	14 "	3.00
S112	280 "	28 "	6.00

AT thermostat, will handle 1,000 watts, \$4.50

Above Prices Postpaid
We carry a complete range of cables from \$1.00 size to large, heavy duty cables for large, commercial installations.

WHITE PLASTIC MARKERS

Mark with pencil. Use over and over. Waterproof. 4 1/2" long. Only \$1.00 for 100, postpaid.

G-Q BLACK PLASTIC POTS

2" Size	2 1/4" Size
30 for \$1.50 Ppd.	30 for \$1.75 Ppd.
100 for 3.75 Ppd.	100 for 4.20 Ppd.
600 for 13.75 frt. col.	500 for 12.50 frt. col.

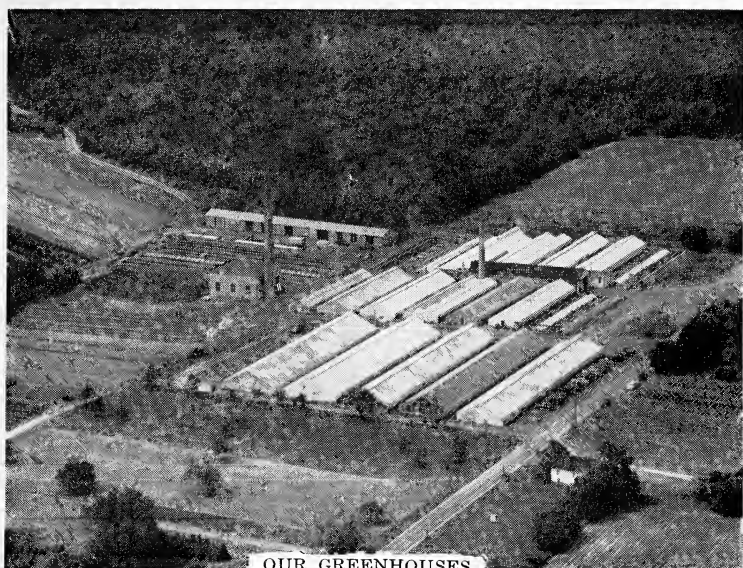
3" Size
30 for \$2.70 Ppd. 90 for \$6.30 Ppd.

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Why not pool your orders for supplies and earn the discount for your club? Write today for the G-Q Club Plan.

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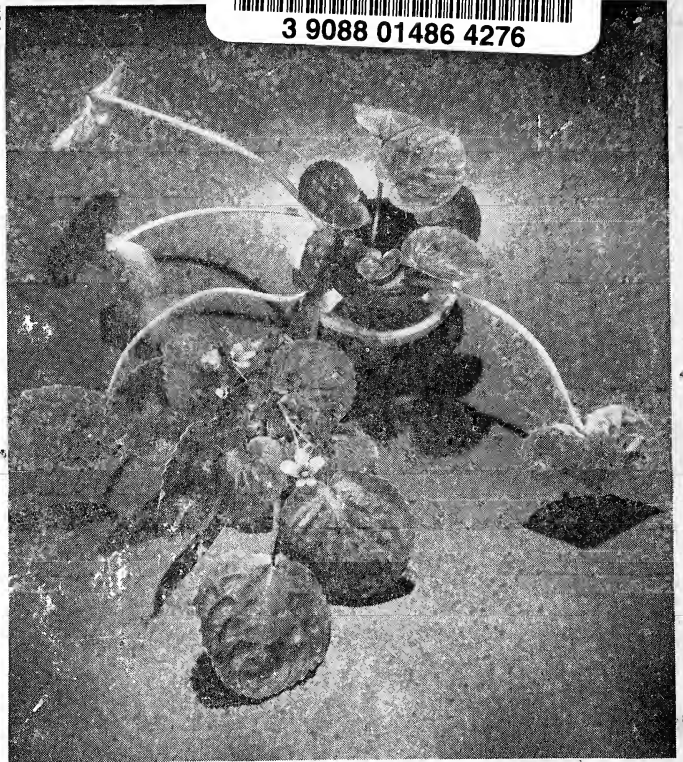


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Best

Wishes

To You.



CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS

That you may grasp the thrill of sunlight on the snow,
 Or mystery of silver moon upon the sea,
 The joy of birds and jewelled flowers in the Spring,
 Throughout the days -- this is our Christmas wish for you.
 That you may feel what friendship means in truest form,
 If you can smooth the way when others disagree.
 And for your own soul's good through either calm or storm,
 Feel Inner Peace -- this is our greatest wish for you.
 May the Christmas season bring you all these blessings, and may the
 New Year be one of bountiful prosperity and peace.

Frank and Anne Tinari



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